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HISTORY  
OF  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
AND  
HANCOCK COUNTY  
IOWA

A RECORD OF SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION  
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

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ILLUSTRATED

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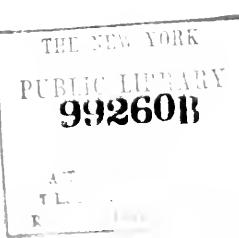
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# PART ONE

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## CHAPTER I.

### GEOLOGY OF WINNEBAGO, HANCOCK AND KOSSUTH COUNTIES.

By Thomas H. MacBride.

INTRODUCTION—LOCATION—PREVIOUS GEOLOGICAL STUDY—PHYSIOGRAPHY—TOPOGRAPHY—DRAINAGE—GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS—GENERAL DESCRIPTION THE PLEISTOCENE SYSTEM—KANSAN DRIFT—THE WISCONSIN DRIFT—SOILS—ECONOMIC PRODUCTS—WATER SUPPLY—ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—FORESTRY NOTES FOR KOSSUTH, WINNEBAGO AND HANCOCK COUNTIES.

The following geological report is taken from the Iowa Geological Survey, Volume XIII, Annual Report, 1902, pp. 80-122:

#### INTRODUCTION

#### LOCATION

The three counties of Iowa here discussed, Kossuth, Hancock, and Winnebago, constitute together an almost perfect square lying along the northern boundary of the State almost midway between the Mississippi and the Sioux. Kossuth is a double county in area, almost the largest county in the State. By our system of surveys the most northern townships and sections in any case bear the brunt of any deficiency in land-division; and so it happened that our square is not exactly perfect but measures only about forty-one miles in north and south directions as against forty-eight from east to west.

These three counties are prairie counties, remote from rivers or mountains or any great terrestrial features popularly believed to determine topography, and it would naturally be supposed that all three are just alike, just like fifty other such political divisions to be selected anywhere within our valley-prairies. But such is by no means the case. Greater contrasts are not to be found, within the limits of a re-

gion not mountainous, than are to be seen within the square before us. We have plains wide extended, so level that for the passing traveler no inequality can be perceived; towns may hail towns across the unbroken fields and houses dot the distant landscapes like blocks upon a sheet of cardboard. We have precipitous hills rising like miniature mountains directly out of the plain, some of them in groups two or three hundred feet high enclosing lakes, like mountain lakes far above the general level, mantled in native forest and looming blue along the prairie horizon visible for miles and miles; we have townships of alternating marshes and knobby hills without any natural drainage whatever, and we have valleys with gently flowing streams bordered by softly rounded, sloping hillsides perfectly adapted to every phase of agricultural effort.

These are the facts of the problem, facts patent to every comer. The farmers attempt to adapt themselves to the motley situation. Lands suitable to their purposes have been long in use, while only recently the ever increasing demand for farms has impelled men to attempt the tillage of the less tractable hills and swamps. Explanation of the situation is the last thing thought of. Men go doggedly to work to make the best of a difficult problem finding satisfaction in a practical solution, a triumph over physical hindrance, and care only for the ultimate return in wealth or comfort.

Nevertheless there is a solution for our problem, an explanation of these strange conditions,—explanation so simple that anyone may understand it and may safely apply its terms even to the last square yard of all this most singular and anomalous topography.

#### PREVIOUS GEOLOGICAL STUDY

It will not be supposed that such solution or explanation has always been at hand ready for each locality fitting thus to such varied local conditions. The facts which lend to our present story credibility have been coming rather rapidly to light during the last five and twenty years, not in Iowa only but in all parts of the northern world. The classification of these facts as set forth in these volumes is even more recent still. The earlier studies of the earth's surface were concerned in classifying the indurated rocky strata and discovering the history of organic life which these so clearly disclose. Inasmuch as our present field shows nowhere a trace of stratified rock in place these prairies were less attractive, indeed offered nothing to the elder students of the natural history of the State. David Owen about the middle of the last century was at work in this part of the world. He followed the Iowa River until the limestone exposures disappeared along its bor-

ders. Fifteen or twenty miles farther on he encountered the topography known since his writing as the "knobby drift."\* Owen was thus in Franklin county and within a few miles of the territory now discussed. Prof. James Hall, who came next in the order of time, does not mention our counties even by name. They did not fall within the limited scope of his inquiry. It remained for Dr. Chas. A. White to introduce our territory to the world as he does in the second volume of his report.† Dr. White describes in some detail the peculiar topography of Kossuth and Hancock counties, and makes repeated reference to the oft-recurring beds of peat in slough and marsh. It was at that time the opinion of Dr. White and others that peat in the prairie counties would form a very important source of fuel supply. The surface deposits in White's report are simply referred to as drift and no attempt whatever is made to explain either their presence or configuration.

In 1881 the present phase of the geological study of this part of Iowa may be said to take origin in Upham's discussion of the series of morainic hills which all along our northern border extend from Minnesota into Iowa at greater or less length.‡ Mr. Upham's descriptions are generally accurate and his map as much so as may be expected on the scale to which it is drawn. The morainic field in our particular locality is really much wider than Mr. Upham's map indicates, as will be pointed out in the descriptions here following. In connection with our present study the reader should also consult Professor Calvin's report on Cerro Gordo county.§

## PHYSIOGRAPHY

### TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the area before us is, as already intimated extremely varied; nevertheless, it is not confused. To the careful observer it will appear that all the at first apparently endless variety is reducible to no more than three distinct types and these are after all quite definitely limited; with respect each to the other mutually exclusive in a remarkable degree. These three topographic types are, first, the type of the level plain, second, that of the knobby drift, the uneroded hills and swamps, and third the type of erosional flood plains and valleys.

The plain is that now familiar in all recent geological literature,

\* Report of the Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. David Owen, Phila., 1852, p. 104.

† Report of Geological Survey of the State of Iowa. Charles A. White, M. D., Des Moines, 1870, Vol. II, pp. 246-9.

‡ See Ninth Annual Report of the Geographical and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, pp. 298-314, Minneapolis, 1881, and Plate VI.

§ Volume VII of the Geological Survey pp. 119-193.

the plain of the Wisconsin drift. It marks the bed or path of an ancient extension of arctic ice and snow which at one time descended to our latitude and covered to a large extent all the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas. The plain area in the three counties we describe is comparatively limited but its characteristics are as unmistakable as in that region where first this remarkable deposit found distinct recognition and a name. In the first place it is generally almost level. Certainly no one can traverse the southern half of Kossuth or Hancock county without being impressed with this topographic characteristic. Nearly all the western part of Hancock county also is a plain so flat that it seems to show no variation in level whatever. This is particularly the case about Hutchins, Kanawha, Corwith and Luverne. Algona, Wesley, Woden, are on a similar plain but on a different level. As the traveler approaches Woden from the south the village is visible for miles across an unbroken plateau. The valley of Prairie creek, say in Luverne township, is no valley to ordinary vision but an absolute plain stretching to the horizon's rim. These are typical illustrations. Sometimes the plain is marked by here and there a ridge or hill, merely a low swell in the landscape, sometimes a succession of low inequalities may be encountered; but these are recognizable only as one carefully traverses the country roads. Sometimes, as just intimated, the plain breaks from one level to another. This is well shown along a line from Irvington to St. Benedict. In the second place, consequent upon the first characteristic, we have in the plain topography a country without efficient drainage. There has been in many places almost no erosion whatever. The water streams along in sluggish current in some winding depression, sometimes as in the case of Prairie Creek south of St. Benedict for considerable distance without any channel at all; sometimes we find a channel which is a mere ditch, tortuous, but only slightly eroded, as in the case of the tributaries of the Boone; sometimes the channel is deeper, a narrow valley has been formed and secondary streams break back in minor shallow receding swales and valleys approaching the erosional type. This is well illustrated by Lotts creek as seen in the township of the same name and in Whittemore township both in Kossuth county. The Wisconsin plains have yet another characteristic; they are everywhere spotted with "kettleholes," small depressions, wet places, an acre, less or more, undrained and grown up, where yet undisturbed by cultivation, to various forms of marsh vegetation, chiefly sedges and bulrushes whose dark colors contrast vividly with the paler vegetation of the surrounding prairie. In dry years the water disappears from most of these marshes and many of them are today lost in corn-fields and meadows. But even after cultivation this remarkable sur-

face peculiarity may still be traced. On the beaten pasture field after a summer shower "the rain also filleth the pools" and shines in little shimmering ponds over all the landscape, and for a little the kettle-holes all come back again.

The topography just described passes more or less directly to the north and east into a second type quite as distinct and no less remarkable. As we pass across the plain the horizon is suddenly broken by rounded contours of low mound-like hills, rising to various altitudes, twenty, thirty, seldom exceeding forty feet. As we ascend one of the highest and look about us the significance of Owen's original expression becomes vivid indeed. Here is the "knobby" drift. As far as eye can reach one knob succeeds another, hill after hill, at distances varying, without any relationship to each other or any regularity whatever. They rise out of the plain; they are not carved from it. The larger are apt to occur in groups, and where the sides are steep as is frequently the case, the summits are barren, rocky and gravelly, unfitted wholly for the plough. But if the knobs themselves are peculiar, no less so are the depressions between them. These, too, have little or no relation to each other. No streams run among hills like these; no radiating valleys acknowledge allegiance to these sloping sides. On the contrary, the streams of the country seem to be outside the hills altogether, and the depressions among the knobs are not valleys—they are cisterns, lakes, marshes, swamps or pools. Here and there an imperfect drainage channel connects these nearly isolated swamps and we have a winding irregular slough as Mud creek in Kossuth County; sometimes, for reasons to be later on set forth, a considerable stream cuts through the ridges, hills and all, as Lime creek; but in general the depressions among these hills remain undrained or have waited the advent of the county ditch and the skill of the engineer.

Such in general is the topographic character of all the eastern part of Hancock county, nearly all of Winnebago county and the northern half of Kossuth county. If the flat plain topography represents the bed of the old ice sheet, the knobby drifts mark for us the margin or limits of its occupancy. These hills are moraines, piles of material unspread when the movement of the glacier stopped. In some localities topography of this sort results in unusual features worthy of special description. Not infrequently the marshes are deepened into lakes and the knobs assume sometimes correspondingly commanding proportions. Thus there are lakes in all three of the counties we discuss. In Hancock county are found Twin lakes in the south and Crystal lake at the north and between them Eagle lake; all were at one time notable features of the prairie landscape. All seem to have been meandered and still preserve in large part their original identity. The Twin lakes

are small, the larger, eastern, occupying not more than two hundred acres. The western lake was at the time of our visit dry, a pasture-field occupied by herds of cattle. Nevertheless there are many indications that it was once a permanent body of water of considerable depth. The banks were in many places high and show the erosion resultant from wave action; on the north there is a distinct sandy beach with recessional ridges, diminutive terraces, etc., all indicating a lengthened history. Nevertheless the history now seems forever closed. The eastern lake contains today the waters of both. In this rainy year of 1902, the waters are by no means deep, and, if one may judge by the extended growth of aquatic plants, bulrushes, sedges and cattails, the eastern lake is also passing and likely at no distant day to become a cultivated field.

Eagle lake is the largest body of water in the three counties. It is about two miles and a half long and half as wide and covers more than one thousand acres. This was at one time apparently much more attractive and lake-like than now. The greatest depth at present is said to be eight feet and the areas of open water are few and the greater part, as Twin lake, today grown up with rushes and sedges. Nevertheless there are good beaches here, and cottages have been erected on the western shore. Crystal lake is a permanent body of water beautifully surrounded by groves and hills. It is said to be twenty feet deep; at any rate the depth is sufficient to shut out rushes over the greater part and its clear surface invites the pleasure-seeker's boat.

The lakes of Winnebago county are less important. Rice lake, extending across the boundary and lying chiefly perhaps in Worth county, is a widespread shallow marsh stretching a mile or two in each direction but with only a limited area of open water. Its waters surround an island lifted fifteen or twenty feet above the ordinary level of the water. The island affords a pleasant beach on which cottages have been erected. The lakes of Kossuth county are best described as sloughs or marshes and will no doubt eventually all be drained.

But if the marshes are thus sometimes lakes, the knobs are occasionally no less like mountains. They everywhere surprise us by their abruptness and steepness and in Ellington township of Hancock county, are found two or more which so far transcend all others that they have long been famous. The highest of the group is Pilot Knob\* which as the barometer reads is nearly 300 feet above the waters of Lime creek at its base, 1450 feet above sea level. This is not only the finest morainic mound thus far described in Iowa, but is one of the

\* To the pioneer the boundless prairies of the Mississippi valley seem to have come ever with irresistible suggestion of the sea. The endless meadows of dark grasses driven in waves before the wind established a more vivid likeness and, for the pioneer, any natural object which aided the traveler to find his way across the unmarked plain became a "pilot." Hence Pilot Rock and Pilot Mound and Pilot Knob, over the whole western country.

finest in the whole country. Ocheyedan mound is only half so high. The famous Lapham Mound, Wisconsin, though more than 800 feet above the level of Lake Michigan is not so high above the basal plain as is our Pilot Knob. The visitor approaches Pilot Knob more easily from Forest City. The mound is visible from the streets of the town as indeed from the prairies almost anywhere for miles in any direction looming up dark and blue along the horizon. The highway climbs at first by easy ascent but at length ascends rather abruptly to the western extension of the hill whence the Knob still looms above us nearly a mile farther to the east. Between lie mountain meadows, as typically such as if the mountains really rose around us; sedgy bogs girt around by the white ranks of the aspen, walled in by impassable ridges. A tiny lake (Dead Man's) lies to the south 200 feet above Lime creek, fed by springs, cold and clear, in summer decked by water lilies and all forms of northern aquatic vegetation, but the knob is nearly a hundred feet above us still. Forests of oak and ash, linden and hickory spread all around, diminishing as we ascend, until we reach the wind-swept summit, perfectly bare; a miniature mountain in every particular. The view from the summit is certainly the finest of its kind. The Knob is so isolated and so steep on almost every side that the prospect in every direction is limited only by the powers of distinct vision. On the plain below us covered, as we know, with hillocks and knobs, all inequalities vanish. The scene entire seems level where houses, groves and towns appear in varied colors to the far horizon's rim. Here is the natural park for the people of Forest City.

Having thus seen something of the nature of the topography with which we deal, we may now take a more comprehensive view and note its general arrangement. It is immediately apparent that there are no knobs to the south and west, and no plains to the north and east. The traveler on the Milwaukee railway approaching from the east meets the knobs at Clear Lake or near it: they keep him company to Britt and then disappear entirely. He has passed through the marginal, or Altamont moraine of the Wisconsin drift in this locality, a distance of some twenty-two miles. If the reader will consult the map of Cerro Gordo county published in this series of reports\* he will discover that outwardly, that is, on the eastern side, the moraine terminates by a comparatively uniform front, the line of demarkation between the hill country and the succeeding plain is nearly straight, or at least not very irregular; the inner margin of the moraine is quite the reverse. The ice seems to have returned from north and west again and again as if loth to release its hold, but recession once begun the margin never quite reached again its farthest eastern out-push. By

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\* Report of the Iowa Geological Survey, Vol. VII, p. 180.

consulting the maps it will be noticed that the existent drainage system is in large measure correspondent to geological history as portrayed. It would seem as if the inner margin of the moraine was first correspondent in general with the eastern bank of Lime creek and the east fork of the Iowa river. The first return gave us in the same way the west fork of the river and the series of lakes to which we have already alluded. Subsequent advances and retreats presented in each case a somewhat arcuate or V-shaped front extending mainly east and west and leaving as results of marginal drainage the peculiarly paired affluent streams which in Kossuth county especially form the head-waters of the upper Des Moines. It is probable that these later morainic fields will be found coincident with others in Palo Alto and Emmet county which will again unite with those already noted in Dickinson and Clay and so form a more or less continuous recessional moraine across the entire field of Wisconsin invasion in northern Iowa.

A peculiar feature of the topography of Kossuth county may be mentioned here. Extending from the north part of Portland township entirely across Ramsey township and into Ledyard is a deep, well-defined depression known as Union Slough. The banks are in most places precipitous, twenty or thirty feet high and evidently the result of some former erosion. We say former erosion because there is evidently no erosion now. The bottom is flat, a mile at least in average width, without present channel or even drainage; simply a sharply outlined morass or swamp a mile or more in width and ten miles long, shut in by high banks and hills. At present the whole surface is covered with water from one to three or four feet deep, so level that a stream escapes from each end, south into Buffalo creek, north into the Blue Earth river. This trough-like valley is no doubt a section of the channel of some preglacial stream, probably part of the stream now represented by the Des Moines, a part that in some way escaped obliteration, although cut off, especially at the south by glacial detritus, piles of gravel and sand. It seems probable that Buffalo creek itself, after passing the south end of the slough, may occupy for a little way, till it reaches the river, part of the same old channel, and possibly the Des Moines also does the same thing here and there in its course southward.

Another topographic feature that is at first sight rather anomalous is the Irvington ridge. A high plateau extends from the river east and north from about Irvington around by St. Benedict and Wesley and so northeast until it joins the morainic hills south and east of Woden. The most prominent margin of the plateau is along the south and follows almost exactly for several miles the section-line road

one mile south of the middle of Irvington township. This plateau is only about twenty or twenty-five feet higher than the Hutchins-Britt-Corwith plain, but it is perfectly named, as Prairie creek in the several branches, finds at the plateau-margin a cutting point and erosion has worked back in rather unusual complexity from the crest. The topography looks much older than it really is, for there is no reason to suppose it earlier than the glacial epoch we are discussing. It seems probable that the plateau represents the margin of an advance of the ice sheet which immediately receded, stopping some miles to the north where the knobby-drift region may be first traced and that in this advance either no moraine was left at the south or it has been obliterated by erosion, at first exaggerated by the nearness of the ice-front. The drainage has, however, been always principally toward the Des Moines channel; there is a fall from the eastern crest toward the river of about four feet per mile.

#### DRAINAGE

The drainage of the area before us instead of determining the topography is almost entirely determined by it. In some places the drainage is perfect or nearly so; in many places there is no drainage at all. There is however a general slope to the south or southeast and when natural drainage fails it is still possible by ditching to reach the end desired and some of the finest farms in the country border a brimming county ditch.

The naturally drained parts of these counties are in the main those immediately contiguous to the principal streams. Among the morainic hills there are, of course, many well drained fields; but these are often so situated as to make their cultivation difficult until the adjoining marshes are drained or tiled.

The principal streams of the three counties are: the Des Moines river and its tributaries, the Iowa river in two branches, and Lime creek, affecting principally the eastern side of Winnebago county. The Des Moines river, or rather the eastern fork of that stream, takes rise in southern Minnesota and enters Kossuth county from Emmet county some twelve miles south of the State line. The stream is of less importance until joined by its principal eastern tributary, Buffalo creek. From the point of this union some three miles south of the center of Kossuth county the river courses almost directly south through the middle of the county and emerges almost exactly at the center of its southern boundary. The river is a fine perennial stream. The valley of the river from its union with the Buffalo down to the Algona city limits follows apparently an old time channel. The flood plain is wide with much alluvium. At Algona the channel seems to

have been pushed west by the drift. At any rate the valley is here new and narrow and is flanked by narrow choppy ravines. Below the city the valley widens again and at Irvington seems to have been at one time gorged with gravel, probably because of the sudden bend at this point to the west. The most remarkable thing about the valley is its depth and the extent of erosion it displays. When, as evidenced by the topography, the glacier lay about Baneroft and Burt the marginal drainage was into the channel of the Des Moines especially by way of the Black Cat, Buffalo Fork and Linder's creek and these tributaries all show the same very marked erosive features. Indeed all the streams that converge immediately north of Algona are more or less deeply eroded and the drainage of this part of the county, south of a line passing through Lone Rock, is proportionally good. The stream channels cut thus deep in the prairie are here and there quite heavily bordered by native woods and the natural scenery is often beautiful.

The streams in the northern half of Kossuth county are all simply sloughs. Mud creek, the longest of them is well named: for the greater part of its course through several townships it has no eroded channel and waits the tardy aid of a county ditch. The Blue Earth river flowing north carries a strong current and seems to be the principal outlet of Union Slough and probably carries away most of the water from the public ditch which enters the upper end of the slough, draining Ledyard township.

The Iowa river is especially interesting because heading in the territory before us and so illustrating the beginnings of a characteristic or typical prairie stream.

The Iowa river drains the eastern half of Hancock county and flows southward in two perennial forks, both determined in course by the topography of the moraine, both, but especially the western, primarily a drainage channel for the inner margin of the Altamont. Neither gives evidence anywhere within our limits of any extended erosive power. Where the valley is large or wide its width is referable to the original position of the knobs or hills more than to any carving done by the stream. The east fork of the Iowa river takes origin in a series of marshes occupying the central sections of Madison township, Hancock county. Some of these swamps are within less than half a mile of the course of the west fork in this locality. Having gathered the waters of most of the sloughs in Madison township and the north part of Garfield township, winding about amid the morainic ridges and ever escaping southward where the hills have left a convenient gap, the stream tends at length almost directly southward along the east line of Garfield township and so continues for some eighteen or twenty miles, leaving the county five miles from the southeast corner. The stream

receives its principal tributaries from the high flat prairies of Ell and Avery townships, the moraine on the east side of the river holding a respectful distance, four or five miles or more away; on the east the valley is limited by morainic swells and ridges all the way; these are especially prominent in the vicinity of Goodell and Klemme. At the latter point the stream has cut through an eastward projecting spur. Near the old town of Amsterdam in Avery township the river has a wide alluvial sandy flood plain, but it emerges from the county with only a narrow slightly eroded valley. The west fork of the river in its rise and progress is more remarkable still. Crystal lake may be called the head of the Iowa river. Its outlet flows east or northeast and passing through a gap in the morainic ridge just south of school-house number one in Crystal township, helped by a ditch, the stream turns southeast into Madison. It seems that the waters of Edwards Lake at time of overflow, a rare occasion, also seek the same channel, although it is possible that in high water the lake might drain equally well into a marsh to the east. This latter has been ditched into communication with a branch of Lime creek, care being taken to avoid the upper ramifications of the east fork of the river. Such are the difficulties under which one of the principal rivers of Iowa is determined in its first outgoing.

Once started the river streams on from one swamp to another avoiding many and finally, as the east fork, on the bounds of Crystal township turns directly south passing Eagle lake one-half mile to the west, but draining it only indirectly and in most circuitous fashion, then on south, almost directly south, limited by moraines now on this side now on that but forming no valley for itself until it cuts through the moraine to the east at last in Winfield Township and thenceforth occupies a channel distinctly erosional until it leaves the county within about three miles of the point of emergence of the east fork. The streams are thus seen to be nearly parallel. Their direction and proximity are equally remarkable. They are more than once within three or four miles of each other. The phenomenon is explained only when we study the topography which they have not caused but by which they are from first to last conditioned. For this reason these streams, although perennial and of considerable importance are less efficient in conveying away the surplus water of the fields. Only at the last have the currents sufficient fall and force to excavate a channel. Hence only in the southern townships of the county are the valleys really serviceable. Erosion has nowhere affected the secondary streams, and ditches are the order of the day.

Another prairie stream which must be mentioned here is the Boone river. This also takes its rise in Hancock county and is likewise of

minimum service as a drainage channel. As above remarked the general slope of the country is south and the Boone in most of its course simply creeps aimlessly about upon the surface. Erosion appears in the vicinity of Corwith and thence south, but the main stream and all its tributaries are simply wide low swales or depressions over which the waters spread in times of flood, but, except as aided by human device, produced no erosive change whatever. Paradoxical as it may seem, the valley of the Boone in Hancock county is an almost level plain; a depression unperceived by him who passes over it.

Lime creek is the third principal drainage channel of the territory now examined. This water rises in Minnesota and enters Winnebago county as a considerable stream about three miles east of the northeast corner of Norway township. The general course for many miles is almost directly south, the westing being only about four miles in Winnebago county. This stream also represents the original drainage of the inner margin of the Altamont. The whole of the three eastern townships of this county is morainic. In fact these townships have practically no drainage at all, for there are, strange enough, no tributaries to Lime Creek from the east. Beaver Creek in the southeast is of value to Mount Valley township; but although the whole country is hilly it is without natural drainage to a very large extent. On the other hand a considerable but very imperfect drainage enters Lime creek from the west. The county ditch following sloughs and swamps, some in natural connection and some not, now drains all of Newton township, drains Lake Harmon in Logan township and even the east side of King township. The channel of Lime creek is generally wide but uneven, little eroded above Forest City. At Forest City the erosion is very marked. Forest City occupies part of a morainic ridge some seventy feet above the flood plain of the creek, so that the valley here is not only deep but remarkably narrow. There is every reason to believe that the creek has since the retreat of the ice cut through the moraine, which is indeed part of the Pilot Knob system, and so found its way into the much broader valley immediately to the south. This valley, however, leads east; there are in places considerable flood plains and here and there a considerable deposit of gravel; but in general in Hancock county the creek simply winds about among the morainic hills showing only here and there evidence of efficient erosion. Immediately northwest of Forest City is a sandy plain including a number of the south-central sections of Forest township. This with the rather wide alluvial bottom land or flood plain of the creek from Leland south all tends to confirm our conclusion that at Forest City the narrow valley has only recently, as such things are esteemed, been cut down and through. If one examines the map and the general trend

of the moraines there sketched, together with the course of the Lime creek as far as Forest City and that of the east fork of the Iowa, he can hardly resist the conclusion that these streams might really have been one but for the curious intervention of the successive morainic ridges which first dammed up Lime creek altogether and then shunted it away off eastward and northeastward ere ever it made escape southward and eastward in accord with the general slope characteristic of this part of Iowa, and the general trend of Iowa streams.

All the streams here described are remarkable in that they take origin in simply wide-extended meadows, great marshes on which the water is generally nowhere deep enough to prevent luxuriant growth of sedgy vegetation, but which seeps away with such slowness as to become in fact a perennial fountain. The effect of man's interference has been in many cases,—by no means yet in all,—to hasten by ditching the escape of the marsh water and at length of the storm water, so that such rivers as the Iowa are likely more and more to become tenuous and uncertain in dry weather, more and more impetuous, sudden, erosive torrents in time of protracted rain.

## GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The geological formations represented in these three counties are very few; in fact, but two, and these are no more than two superimposed sheets of till or drift with no indurated rocky strata exposed or even discoverable, except by the well-digger's drill, in the whole area. The geology is almost wholly surface geology and apart from the topography just described offers few themes for present discussion. There are no quarries, save the scattered boulders of the prairie; sometimes so large that a single one constitutes for a time a local quarry, sometimes so abundant that a single farm may furnish building stone for the neighborhood and to spare. Here are named the only geological formations recognized:

Group.	System.	Series.	Stage.
Cenozoic.	Pleistocene.	Glacial.	Wisconsin. Iowan. (?) Kansan.

### THE PLEISTOCENE SYSTEM

#### KANSAN DRIFT

The Kansan drift is the name applied to the vast body of glacial detritus spread over nearly the whole area of Iowa and constituting still the superficial deposit of the larger portion of the State's area.

Older than the other generally recognized drift sheet it lies beneath these and so, as in our present field is only here and there exposed, although everywhere discoverable. The farmer who sinks a well, or sometimes even the man who excavates a cellar, the road-maker who cuts the hills, the railway engineer who empties a pocket of gravel,—anyone who for any reason cuts through the common country clay is sure to encounter sooner or later what he calls a hard-pan of blue clay. This experience is so general that it is everywhere understood. The blue clay is a recognized sub-stratum of which everybody is sure, the only question being as to relative depth or position and its thickness. The student of surface deposits recognizes in this omnipresent sheet of blue clay a member of the Kansan drift. Whatever may be above it or below it this much over the whole state, with few minor exceptions, is fixed and constant. Now in the area here described the blue clay, so far as discovered, comes naturally nowhere to the surface. It is probably very near the surface in many places, covered by the black soil only; but its proximity to the surface even where so reported, could not be confirmed. The Kansan clay has however been uncovered in places not a few by artificial means and sometimes by erosion. Besides, the bottom of Union Slough and the beds of many of the lakes and sloughs are said to be blue clay. The bottom of the Irvington gravel pit seems to be blue clay, and road cuttings between Algona and Irvington, along the river, reveal the same peculiar, easily identified formation. Along the road that leads up from the river southwest in section 10 a peculiar jointed clay may be observed which represents an oxidized upper portion of this same blue clay horizon. The experienced traveler along the highway will catch many such glimpses, especially after heavy rains when erosion is everywhere usually fresh and clean. It may be worthy of record that for such observation the summer of 1902 gave exceptional opportunity. But beyond all surface exposures, the record of every deep well in the whole country establishes the presence of the Kansan drift as the universal subjacent stratum over our entire area. Just above this hard-pan of blue clay there is often found in other parts of Iowa a deposit of hard compact brown or reddish gravel, and traces of this are also not lacking in the surface exposures referred to along the Des Moines river.

It was to be expected that traces of the Iowan drift had been discoverable here. This deposit in Cerro Gordo county and all the country east constitutes the surface and lies directly upon the Kansan or upon the country rock. It seems, however, that in this neighborhood the Iowan deposits are very thin, very scanty, represented in many places, as it appears, by trains of boulders only.\* Besides the

\* See Vol. VII, pp. 174-5, Geological Survey.

opportunities for observation, for tracing lines of contact in materials so easily displaced are not many. The country as already shown is flat save as covered by piles of the later drift, conditions entirely unfavorable to stratigraphic observation. It is difficult to say how much farther than present known limits the Iowan may have extended westward; its western moraine has been obliterated in this latitude, did such ever exist; nevertheless it is to be hoped that somewhere within the limits of the counties now before us, possibly in Hancock or Winnebago county, probably not in Kossuth, which is too far west, some section more fortunate may one day reveal the sequence of all the Pleistocene deposits that here properly belong or may in good reason be assumed. There is evidence also in the report of well-diggers for this region, of the existence of still other, older, Pleistocene deposits beneath the Kansan. Everywhere come the usual reports of the finding of muck, twigs, sticks, etc., under the blue clay, with bad water from the black horizon. All this indicates, of course, that this blue clay bed covers an older surface, a surface once green with vegetation as is the present, though with a somewhat different vegetation as the twigs and sticks would show. Besides, after passing the blue clay the drill often goes through gravel, and other drift material for considerable distances before reaching limestone. Thus at Lake Mills the town well showed some twenty-five or thirty feet of such material, other wells are reported as showing even more. That is to say there is at least one other drift sheet under that here described as Kansan, but we have not yet sufficient data for its delimitation or definition.

In the same way in which we learn of this formation we come to a knowledge of the rocky floor which at greater or less depth underlies all this great body of drift gravels and sand and clay. The limestone that crops out in Cerro Gordo and Humboldt counties may guide us somewhat in determining the foundation limestones next the drift in Hancock and Kossuth. They represent possibly the Kinderhook stage of the Lower Carboniferous, or the Lime creek stage of the Devonian, on the south, with the Cedar Valley stage of the same system in the north, especially in northern Hancock and Winnebago counties.\* The limestone occurs at no great depth in any part of our field; thus at Lake Mills the depth is reported one hundred feet; at Thompson, nearly west, one hundred and eighty feet; at Germania, directly west of Thompson, only seventy feet. At Lone Rock and in that vicinity the limestone lies at from one hundred to one hundred and twenty feet beneath the surface; at Garner, at one hundred and ten to one hundred and twenty; at Britt, one hundred and twenty-five feet; at Algona, two hundred and thirty feet is the report. If this is true the well must have

\* See Vol. IX, p. 122 and Vol. VII p. 144, *et seq.*, Geological Survey.

struck some earlier valley or depression, doubtless the earlier channel of the Des Moines. At West Bend, west side of Kossuth county, one hundred and sixty feet is the distance to the limestone. This reveals a remarkable uniformity in the rocky floor on which the drift has been in one deposit after another gradually laid down.

#### THE WISCONSIN DRIFT

Without exception, so far as now known the entire surface of Winnebago, Hancock and Kossuth counties is covered by the deposit known in these reports as the Wisconsin drift. Often described in these pages it needs small discussion here. Where exposed by erosion or artificial cuttings it is the same whitish, sticky, pebbly calcareous mixture that we find everywhere as subsoil in all the northwest prairie. In this drift are abounding bowlders, none very large, predominantly of the type intersected by veins of trap and hence where weathered liable to assume fantastic shapes.\* Occasionally the typical Wisconsin bowlder clay gives place to piles and beds of sand or gravel but this is unusual. Even Pilot Knob piled high as it is, appears to be made up throughout of naught but pebbly drift. The rains of centuries have washed, of course, all the finer earth from the summit of the hill and it now appears bare and gravel-capped, but the gravel is surely superficial only. On the other hand a mound one hundred feet lower exhibits on its western face a gravel pocket of considerable size now used as a source of road material. Other rocky points appear here and there, as, for example, in sections 1 and 2 of King township, Winnebago county, but even the so-called 'hog's back' in Norway township of the same county, a peculiar ridge, some twenty-five or forty feet above the general level, a mile or more in length and in places no more than a rod wide, is probably Wisconsin clay throughout. In the neighborhood of all the lakes there are banks and beds of sand affording not infrequently the luxury of a sandy beach, but such sand is often the result of a re-assortment of materials by the waters of the lake; the finer silt has been removed, the sand remaining on the wave-washed shore.

*The Wisconsin Gravels*—Under this caption may be discussed the few gravel deposits in the present area which seem to be due to the excessive wash incident to the melting and final disappearance of the assumed Wisconsin glacier. There are few or no such deposits along the Boone river, Prairie creek or the forks of the Iowa. Such as we have are to be seen along the Des Moines river below Algona. This indicates that the rapid drainage of the disappearing ice found principal

\* In Avery township on the farm of Emily Griggs a collection of these peculiar Wisconsin bowlders has been assembled and the stones have been placed in various fanciful postures to which peculiar erosion well adapts them.

exit by way of the larger river. From a point about two miles south of Algona on to the limits of Kossuth county the Des Moines channel has been choked with gravel. This is especially notable at Irvington where from a bed of such material the Northwestern railway has taken out hundreds of carloads of gravel ballast. At Irvington the river shifts abruptly west for a couple of miles and the northern bank is an immense gravel train. So at Lime creek in Ellington township of Hancock county; the drainage before it cut through at Forest City must have gone over the ridge and found ready to hand south of Pilot Knob a considerable valley which it proceeded to fill up with gravel. The Burlington and Cedar Rapids railway has availed itself of part of this overwash found in the gravel-pit some two miles south of Forest City. In sections 15, 16 and 17 of Ellington township gravel trains are conspicuous along the north side of the creek. A well sunk on the Beadle farm, section 16, shows that the gravel is there more than forty feet in depth. These gravels are all referred to the close of the Wisconsin period. They are, when seen in section, fresh-looking, only slightly coherent or compacted, non-ferruginous; they contain many rotten boulders, but these chiefly of the coarse-grained type whose elements were originally less intimately united. Water-laid beds of sand with abundant cross-bedding alternate with the layers of coarser gravel.

Finally, it is interesting in this connection to note the varying thickness of the surface drift. No doubt if all the data were in it would easily appear that the Wisconsin clay here as farther south, is relatively very thin; simply a veneer. No wonder old channels are sometimes all unfilled. In Kossuth county the blue clay is encountered often at a depth of five or six feet. About Bancroft the pebbly clay is said to be from ten to fifteen feet in thickness. In eastern Winnebago from six to thirty feet and so for other localities. At Algona the reported thickness is ten feet, along the river it is certainly more; at Whittemore ten to fifteen feet is the thickness reported. The knobs and mounds previously described, where the deposit would seem much thicker are simply material undistributed resting on the old topography which, where the distribution of Wisconsin material has been accomplished, is often but slightly changed by the presence of this latest surface sheet. Furthermore, if the testimony of farmers is reliable, and it probably is, there are as already stated many places where blue clay lies immediately under the black surface soil. In these places the newer drift is of course lacking altogether. These localities are generally low, and represent, probably, pre-Wisconsin depressions.

## SOILS

The soils of these counties are in all respects similar to those of the neighboring counties west. Over all is the same rich mantle of black surface soil of apparently inexhaustible fertility. In the region affected by the knobby drift as described in the pages preceding, there are hilltops from which the black soil has been largely removed by erosion. These pass for gravel hilltops; but in the great majority of cases there is really very little gravel or sand. Even Pilot Knob, although at the summit covered with small stones and pebbles is not a gravel mound; the real gravel deposit appears on the hill immediately west. Nevertheless there is some difference in the soils of these different counties when studied in detail. We have the soil of the upland and the soil of the plain, both resting on a subsoil of pebbly clay. This includes by far the greater part of the entire area under consideration. In the lowlands these black soils are often very deep; reported sometimes as much as four feet; on the hillsides much thinner, as would naturally be the case, and often more serviceable for immediate cultivation since the flats contain at times considerable peat, or at least soil in which organic matter has only partially decayed. This seems to be nearly everywhere the situation where marshes of considerable extent have been lately drained. Such soils are really suffering from excess of richness, and improve rapidly under the ventilation they receive in cultivation. Sometimes these lowland soils lie immediately upon the blue clay and these suffer from lack of subsoil drainage but these cases are few. In not a few cases in the knobby drift region there is considerable sand in the subsoil and sometimes at the surface. This is noticeable in the eastern townships of Winnebago and Hancock counties particularly. There is a similar condition along the east side of Union slough in Kossuth county. Where the sand is not in excess the soils are improved by its presence. In German township of Hancock county are some of the finest farms to be seen anywhere and the proportion of sand is much greater than in most other localities.

The farms along Lime creek have not infrequently a sand or gravel subsoil; along the Des Moines south of Irvington there is some alluvial soil resting on beds of gravel, and in a few other localities a gravel subsoil has been reported or observed, but in general the soils of these counties are very uniform, rich, and unfailingly productive. They are almost always so level that they will never lose by erosion, and as the drainage of the county becomes more and more perfect the whole country will gradually assume the appearance of a well tilled garden.

## ECONOMIC PRODUCTS

There is no petroleum, no coal, no lime rock in these counties. The limestone is buried under drift and from forty to one hundred and twenty feet below the surface; no coal has been reported by those who year by year send down their drills in every part of the country, and petroleum has seemingly not yet been thought of. The discovery of either coal or petroleum in this part of Iowa is, as we know, unlikely; the whole region is north of the known limits of the Iowa coal field.

Notwithstanding the lack of stratified rock in place the country is liberally supplied with building rock, suitable for foundation purposes, at least, in form of surface bowlders. These when large are broken up in the field. In any case the granite is sold by the cord. Fourteen tons are reckoned a cord, and in Kossuth county the price is quoted at ten dollars per cord. The farmer commonly finds on his own premises sufficient stone for all his needs. Sometimes, indeed, the bowlders are far too numerous. Hundreds lie along the fence rows. One farmer reported three hundred on forty acres, all taken to the fence-line in a single season.

There are for present report no exposures of valuable clays. Nevertheless, the manufacture of brick and tile has in many places been attempted. Mr. Pitkin has spent large sums of money and much time near Forest City in an attempt to manufacture brick and tile. The clay is said to cap blue clay. The worked bed is five or six feet thick, free from pebbles or other objectionable features and the product as shown by the specimens on the ground is certainly good; better than any so far noted on the Wisconsin drift region. Nevertheless, for some reason the enterprise seems to have been abandoned. The deposit is apparently an aqueous sediment, resembles loess. At Klemme, or near it, tile of fair quality is manufactured in limited amount. Near the river at Algona brick is manufactured from Wisconsin clay rather unusually free from pebbles. The brick and tile, however, show the usual fault; the lime pebbles that are present slack after burning and so make trouble. The brick are very soft, suitable it is said for inside work only.

At Britt, the Interstate Drainage Company began operations about July 15, 1902, and are even now (October) enlarging the plant. They have burned about 50,000 brick of fair quality and 60,000 tile. The demand, so far, is far in excess of the supply. The material is apparently Wisconsin clay of superior quality. The fuel is coal.

The gravel which occurs in great abundance here and there should not be overlooked in a resumé such as this. This gravel makes the best of roads. In many parts of northern Iowa its value is apprecia-

ted to such extent that miles of country roads are paved with it. Unfortunately for road-making, gravel though widely is not evenly distributed in nature. It occurs sometimes where not needed, and again cannot be procured conveniently where needed most. All the marshes of Kossuth and Hancock counties have been bridged by so called grades; these are often of gravel and excellent. They must be made of something other than ordinary surface soil if they are to be permanent.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The running waters of the counties here described are of considerable value. In Kossuth county particularly, good perennial streams are well distributed. The Des Moines river waters a large section of the country while its several tributaries, the Buffalo, Black Cat, Plum creek and Lott's creek are far-reaching and presumably perennial streams. In Winnebago county Lime creek is the only stream of value or importance. It is probable that the county ditch may be of service not only in draining wide-extended marshes but also as a water supply for many farms in the township by which it passes. In Hancock county we have the two branches of the Iowa river, both valuable streams especially in the southern townships. The Boone river also affords water for stock in the southwest part of this meadow county. There are besides in all these counties abundant pools and small lakes that are often serviceable in the care of stock. Some have been artificially deepened and made permanent.

By far the greater number of farms have deep wells and wind-pumps, with reservoirs of various sorts. Water is obtainable at varying depths. Many of the wells seem to yield abundant water above the blue clay at the surprisingly shallow depth of fifteen to twenty feet. In Mount Valley township wells eighty feet deep have water within ten feet of the surface. Such go through the blue clay but not to rock. Forest City has a well located near Lime creek, north of the city and three hundred and two feet deep; the well is flowing at the level of the creek or a few feet higher. In the eastern part of our territory rock is reached at about 120 to 130 feet, occasionally much less, and the wells enter the rock for varying depths. In Kossuth county, northern half, the rock seems to be not more than seventy-five to one hundred feet below the surface and at Germania a flowing well is found only sixty feet deep. Other flowing wells are found about Ledyard and indeed on all the farms from Germania north and west. Flowing wells are common also along the Boone valley in Hancock county. So far as could be learned they are simply drift artesian wells; they do not in the cases

reported reach the underlying limestone of the country at all and owe their peculiarity to the local topography, the intake being the morainic fields of southern Minnesota, of Winnebago and Kossuth or possibly of northern Hancock county. At Garner the town well is one hundred and twenty feet deep; about twenty feet to blue clay which is here some forty feet in thickness; "gravel and rock" make up the remaining sixty feet. The well at the Milwaukee railway station at Britt has been already quoted in these reports.\* This is over five hundred feet deep, but the town well a mile away finds abundant water at one hundred and twenty-five feet, ten of which are in limestone.

In general over the whole area here described water is reached at or near the surface of the limestone. The average depth of wells is not far from one hundred feet and the supply at this depth for all ordinary purposes is apparently inexhaustible. The water is generally reported good. Less complaint than usual is heard of bad water under the blue clay caused by slowly decomposing organic stuff. The deeper well at Britt, mentioned above, affords water which contains in solution an inconvenient amount of solids which tend to form incrustations and so choke up pipes.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### FORESTRY NOTES FOR KOSSUTH, WINNEBAGO AND HANCOCK COUNTIES

The forest area in these counties was originally, and has been until recently, rather larger than usual in prairie counties. Especially is this true of Hancock and Winnebago. In the latter the greater part of the eastern townships was originally covered with forest trees and until comparatively recent years the same region has been more densely and extensively occupied by young native forest, the so-called "second-growth." The same thing was true of a large part of Forest township and of Newton township, and there was native wood about Lake Har-

\* See Vol. VI, p. 195, Geological Survey.

mon, and perhaps one or two other native groves were known to the pioneer. In Hancock county, Ellington township, with the southern slopes of Pilot Knob and the banks of Lime creek, were all extensively wooded country and native groves were found all along the Iowa river in Avery township and about Amsterdam. There is still a native grove at Twin lakes and one in section 11 of the township of the same name, and another at Crystal lake. The latter is now in part a park. In Kossuth county the native woods were limited pretty nearly to the valley and flood plain of the Des Moines river, particularly below the point where the tributaries, Black Cat and Plum creek enter. The list of species represented in these native forest plantations includes the names of nearly all the arboreal forms found in eastern or especially northeastern Iowa. Along the Des Moines about Algona and along Lime creek east of Forest City and especially on Pilot Knob and on its attendant hills genuine forest conditions prevail. Undisturbed by fires the trees make luxuriant growth and add a beauty to these prairie landscapes otherwise unattainable. The presence of Pilot Knob and its wooded sides, seen like a blue wall from all the surrounding country for miles, has to this country and for it a real commercial value, and if the people who are so fortunate as to own farms and homes in the neighborhood of this piece of natural attractiveness are wise they will never suffer its beauty to be destroyed. Steps should be taken to make Pilot Knob with its woods, its lake and its meadows, its exhilarating heights, a park to be for the delight and enjoyment of the people for all time. Algona has also great natural advantages. Her wooded banks and woodland drives along the river and across it, attended by the rich variety of native groves, are certainly surprisingly beautiful and should belong to the city, some of them at least, for the benefit of coming generations.

Tree-planting in these counties has proceeded much as elsewhere for the purposes of shelter and fuel. Every farmer has a grove, and some of these are of fine proportions and show beautiful trees. Here as in other Iowa counties the species planted have been selected as rapidly growing, rather than for value when grown. Nevertheless there are plantations sufficient to show that all sorts of trees common to our northern nurseries may be successfully reared along these northern borders. Mr. Eugene Seeor has hundreds of conifers to show how easily the farmers of this region may provide themselves with timber, even for lumber. The primeval trees in all the forests named have nearly all long since disappeared. They were the product of centuries and were ripe for the harvest. Time has not elapsed for their successors to attain much value, but there is not doubt that the most valuable hardwood trees of our northern forest will yet again find place upon the

hills and by the streams of the counties to which they are native and in which history shows that they find congenial skies and soil. The observed species in the several localities discussed are named in the following list:

*Tilia americana* L. Linden. Basswood.

The linden is a valuable and beautiful tree not uncommon in all our northern forests. In Iowa the species is usually encountered on the hillside not far above the flood plain of some perennial stream. It is common along the Des Moines about Algona, along Lime creek about Pilot Knob, nor is it lacking to any of the native groves mentioned in the paragraphs immediately preceding. The stooling habit of the tree which often gives us two or three or more distinct trunks from the same stump prevents the otherwise rapid development of a large tree. Nevertheless basswood logs and lumber were familiar to the pioneer, and an occasional trunk two or three feet in thickness is yet to be found in our native woods. The tree grows well when transplanted, is clean and beautiful and forms a dense, delightful shade. The bloom in mid-summer is pleasantly fragrant, the delight of the bees and the source of our very finest variety of honey.

*Celastrus scandens* L. Climbing Bittersweet.

This singular forest plant is not infrequent in all the groves of northern Iowa. Its peculiar habit attracts the attention of the woodman who very frequently comes upon a young elm or even hickory entirely smothered, its trunk fairly strangled by the twining coils of its too affectionate neighbor. The effort of the afflicted tree to send down nutrition to its roots results sometimes in a curious swelling ridge which like a giant corkscrew affects the tree-trunk from bottom to top and remains a permanent disfigurement even after the assailant has entirely disappeared. Nevertheless the vine is a favorite cover for unsightly fences, and is sometimes planted for an arbor. In any situation its bursting, but long enduring, scarlet fruit is one of the cheerful sights of our western autumn.

*Ceanothus americanus* L. Jersey Tea. Red-root.

This little shrubby bush well deserves attention and preservation on account of its abundant and handsome bloom. It is found on the borders of dry woodlands everywhere and in summer contributes its share to the beauty of Pilot Knob. As an ornamental shrub certainly one of the finest native to our prairie state and worth a dozen imported but less hardy species.

*Vitis riparia* Michx. Wild grape.

This is the familiar wild grape of all the west. Native by every stream, climbing in every thicket, it quickly avails itself of the shelter afforded by planted groves and may be found on many a farm removed

from its original habitat. The fruit, ripe after frost, is still much sought by those with whom still lingers the clean pure taste of the pioneer, the bloom is fragrant to an unusual degree, and hardy vigorous growth commends it as a valuable climbing shrub eminently fitted for the covering of objects unsightly in town or field.

*Ampelopsis quinquefolia* Michx. Five-leaved Ivy. Virginia Creeper.

The Virginia creeper is a universal favorite as a cover for the masonry of walls, for fences, etc. It has a great advantage over the grape in that its tendrils adapt themselves to various supports. They know well the roughened or weathered surface of various objects and spread adhering disks against the face of a tree stump or quarry wall. Hence the name five-leaved ivy. The plant very well supplies in this country the place of the English ivy. It will cover a stone building from top to bottom and adheres well to brick if not too much exposed to our burning summer sun. Five-leaved ivy bears no relation to the so-called "Poison ivy," and is by no means poisonous. The foliage in autumn turns brilliant red, conspicuous in the autumn thicket. The fruit resembles that of the grape, but the cluster is open and the dark blue berries are few.

*Acer saccharinum* L. Soft Maple. White Maple.

The soft maple is the most familiar tree in Iowa. Universally planted on every prairie farm it is at once an ornament and shelter and has transformed the landscape of the State. The tree is of surprisingly rapid growth, its wood makes excellent fuel and a quality of lumber much esteemed, especially in furniture-making. On the other hand the wood of the soft maple is brittle and in our latitude and climate the long branches not infrequently fall a prey to the sweeping wind or the gusts of summer storms. This is *A. dasycarpum* Ehr. of the books.

*A. saccharum* L. Sugar Maple. Hard Maple.

In this part of Iowa the sugar maple is rare. It was observed and noted in Forest township, Winnebago county only. The tree probably occurs in other places along Lime creek. It was not discovered in Hancock county nor in the valley of the Des Moines, although to have been expected. The species is too well known to require much comment. It grows much more slowly than its relative the soft maple, but makes much better wood. When planted as an ornamental or shade tree the drought of an ordinary Iowa summer destroys its upper twigs and branches, so that all such trees sooner or later disappoint us, dying at the top. It seems probable that in any situation trees grown from seed do better than those whose roots have been disturbed and injured in the process of transplanting. In Iowa there were once large trees of this species, even groves of them, "sugar orchards," but

these were uniformly found by rocky perennial streams, and in the shelter of other forest trees where the drought was less severe. This tree is called *A. saccharinum* L. in the more familiar literature of this subject.

*Acer negundo* L. Ash-leaved Maple. Box Elder.

The box elder is our universal tree. Native in all the eastern portion of the State it is now planted and naturalized in every county. As a shelter tree it rivals the willow and soft maple, especially in rapid growth, and makes a denser shade than either. Its habit is however very different from that of other maples. It tends to make crooked branches and a round dense head. Even in thick groves the trunk may rarely be induced to grow straight. The tree is nevertheless valuable in every way, for shade, shelter, and fuel.

*Rhus typhina* L. Velvet Sumac. Staghorn Sumac.

A beautiful shrub is this; sometimes rising to the stature of a small tree, twenty to twenty-five feet in height; rare in northern Iowa. The only specimens noted were in the vicinity of Lake Mills, Winnebago county. Here it occurs commonly by the roadside. It is a most handsome ornamental hardy plant. It tends to form a thicket but is easily kept in check. The curious "velvet" of the young shoots and branches is unique in our forests; the leaves are soft of delicate tints of green, changing in autumn; the flower clusters are large and showy and the fruit crimson and brilliant. We have nothing better that will endure our climate, probably nothing as good. It is not poisonous, as some are wont to believe, although the fruit is inedible, except by birds, and the peculiar resin of the branches protects the shrubs generally from cattle and horses.

The species ranges along our northern border and in eastern Iowa has been noted as far south as Monticello in Jones county.

*Rhus glabra*. Sumac. Smooth Sumac.

This is the species common throughout the State. Even in prairie counties where natural groves are none or few, the traveler often encounters on some dry hillside a plantation of sumac bushes, sometimes no more than one foot high. On the other hand in the eastern counties the sumac is sometimes a small tree fifteen or twenty feet high. Like the preceding it is one of our own ornamental shrubs and deserves well of every Iowan.

/ *Rhus toxicodendron* L. Poison Ivy; Three-leaved Ivy; Poisonyvine; Poison Oak; Poison Sumac.

Resembling the preceding in none of its more obvious characters the poison sumac is yet able to lend its own ill repute to all other members of the family. This plant is poisonous, at least for many people though not for all. It is sometimes confused with the Virginia

Creeper, because like that species it sometimes ascends tall trees, rooting fast to the bark of its host. In Iowa the *three-leaved* foliage is a sure distinction in the growing season; later the *white dry fruit* will readily separate it not only from other species of sumac, but also from the purple fruited innocent *Ampelopsis*.

*Robinia pseudacacia* L. Locust. Black Locust.

Probably indigenous to southeastern Iowa, the locust tree has been very widely planted. For some time less popular because of the depredations of the locust-borer, it is now coming again into favor, being less afflicted. One of our most valuable hardwood trees; well worth planting for all purposes. Its flowers are beautiful and odorous; its foliage handsome and its wood heavy, strong, of unusual durability when in contact with the soil, hence of highest value for posts.

*Spiraea salicifolia* L. Wild Meadowsweet.

This is a beautiful little shrub with wand-like stems and branches tipped in summer with abundant, spicate, snowy bloom. Common in moist shades, on the flanks of Pilot Knob.

*Pyrus iowensis* Wood. Crab-apple. Wild Crab.

The crab-tree is common over all the prairie country, forming small thickets around the borders of native groves and even on cool hillsides where there are no other forest trees. Its beautiful odorous bloom, the very glory of our early summer, should render this tree a favorite with our whole people and save it from threatened destruction. The agents of the nurseries offer our Iowa farmers long lists of cultivated and imported novelties in the way of flowering shrubs, but not one of them all will for a moment compare with the modest splendor of our Iowa crab, which everybody may have for the planting. It will bear transplanting and grow anywhere.

*Crataegus mollis* T. and G.; *C. crus-galli* L.; *C. punctata* Jacq.; *C. tomentosa* L. Hawthorn; White thorn; Thorn-apple.

These are first cousins of the crab apple, often, indeed generally, growing with the more familiar species, especially in wood borders or where the forest meets the prairie. Common on Pilot Knob, along Lime creek, and in the groves of Hancock county. Their white flowers contrast pleasantly with the rosy inflorescence of the crab, although some are inclined to be malodorous. The first species is our favorite red haw whose large scarlet apples enrich the fence rows in autumn where the zeal of the road commissioner has not yet found the tree, or the barbarous vandalism of the "line-men" has not yet mutilated and destroyed it.

*Amelanchier rotundifolia* T. and G. Shad-bush; Service-berry; June-berry.

Recognizable in all our northern country by its fine snow-white

blossoms covering the bush or tree in early spring. It blooms before the wild plum, before the leaves are out on anything—save perhaps the vanguard willows,—and marks the whole hillside with its white banners signaling the on-coming of the spring. The fruit is small but edible and in favor with many people so that the tree is often cultivated in country gardens. In habit and foliage variable, there is after all perhaps but a single species, the old *A. canadensis* L. of which our round-leaved forms are but the western variety. Along the banks of the Des Moines; on Pilot Knob.

*Cornus circinata* L'Her; *C. paniculata* L'Her. Cornel-Bush; Dog-wood.

These are handsome ornamental shrubs. They bear white flat clusters of flowers in early summer and showy, round or flattened, berries in fall; the fruit in the first named blue, in the second white. *C. circinata* endures dry rocky places, even clings to rocky ledges; *C. paniculata* loves the river brink. Found in the thickets along wooded banks in all three counties.

*Sambucus canadensis* L. Elder-bush. Elder-berry.

The elder-berry is a plant, everywhere familiar, often planted in gardens for the sake of its fruit, but now springing up as if native in the rich soil of farm-land and meadow. The abundant black-purple fruit is esteemed as fruit, and is certainly valuable as food for birds.

*Viburnum lentago* L.; *V. prunifolium* L.; *V. dentatum* L. Sheep-berry; Black haw; Arrow-wood.

Of the three Viburnums in this part of Iowa the first and last as here named are found in wet places or by streams; the black haw is a small slender tree everywhere in native groves. *V. dentatum* on Pilot Knob only.

*Symporicarpus occidentalis* Hook. Wolf-berry.

A handsome shrub is this, native to all the northern counties; abundant about the margins of the groves and so suggesting its proper use in plantations. The elegant little flowers are showy even in the flowery month of June, and the white fruit is in pleasing contrast to the dull tints of the autumn field.

*Cephalanthus occidentalis* L. Button-bush.

A common shrub in wet places on Pilot Knob; with handsome flowers, in its favorite habitat, but of little general use.

*Fraxinus americana* L. White Ash.

The ash is a tree of wide range and of universal usefulness. Its wood is excellent for lumber and makes fine fuel. As a shade tree it is clean and beautiful and of reasonably rapid growth. No other tree except the cottonwood and the maple is so extensively planted on prairie farms; nevertheless its value is hardly yet appreciated.

*Fraxinus viridis* Michx. Green Ash.

This species is not rare along wooded water courses and differs decidedly from the commonly planted species. It is a small, irregularly branched, but vigorous tree, valuable only for the excellent fuel it affords.

*Ulmus americana* L. American Elm. White Elm.

The white elm is the street-tree of North America. For planting in rows along our village and city streets nothing can match this. The tree is hardy, enduring all sorts of soil and much mistreatment; it grows rapidly and in selected individuals with a symmetry unequalled. Nor only along the highway and street is the elm a thing of beauty; out in the open field or by the prairie stream a single lone elm may often be noticed whose rich umbrageous foliage in summer, and elegant plump outline in winter, are simply the crowning beauty of the landscape.

The elm is a rapid grower, makes first class lumber for many uses about the farm, and is valuable at least in no small degree as a source of excellent fuel.

*Ulmus fulva* Michx. Red Elm. Slippery Elm.

The slippery elm occurs rarely in the groves of the counties we describe. It is a much less valuable tree than the preceding, although its wood is tough, unsplittable, highly prized for some purposes. The tree is easily distinguished by its extremely harsh, large and rough-surfaced leaves, the stiff rigid branching, and the large-clustered, almost orbicular, rough and venulose fruit.

*Celtis occidentalis* L. Hackberry.

Fine specimens of this tree were noticed near the old town of Amsterdam, and others in Winnebago county. It is indigenous to our northern counties generally and a delightful tree. It grows more slowly than its cousin, the elm, but makes a much denser shade. The top when left to itself is shapely, the foliage pale green. There is no finer ornamental tree and while its wood is less desirable for lumber it makes the best of fuel.

*Juglans nigra* L. Black Walnut. Walnut.

This is doubtless, commercially considered, the most valuable species in the whole list. Native to eastern Iowa, it grows well in stream valleys and on prairie plantations as far as the Missouri river. The walnut grove at Whiting in Monona county is famous the country over and there is another in Sac almost as fine. These are both the result of careful planting. In Hancock county there are fine thrifty trees in the groves around the old court-house at Concord. But the species is also represented by native trees at Amsterdam and on the land of Mr. Hathaway in Twin Lakes township. The pioneers seem to have found elegant walnut trees in Winnebago county and there is still

near Forest City, a walnut stump in witness, more than four feet across the top. There is therefore no reason why farmers in these counties may not raise walnut timber. The crop is somewhat slow, but if cared for is much more rapid than some people suppose. There are many native walnuts along the Des Moines in Kossuth county but the larger trees have been long since cut away.

*Juglans cinerea* L. Butter-nut. White Walnut.

The butter-nut was noted in eastern Hancock and in Winnebago. This must be near the western limit of the species in this latitude. Not without value, the tree is nevertheless nothing like so worthy of cultivation as is the walnut. It is by nature a smaller form and although furnishing a fine-grained lumber has not been much in favor with our western people.

*Carya alba*. Nutt. Hickory; Shell-bark Hickory; Shell-bark.

This valuable species is apparently common in Winnebago county, but less so in the other counties. Only small young trees were observed. The old trees are probably all gone. The wood of the hickory is in great demand in the manufacture of wagons, buggies and other forms of vehicles. A forest of hickory today would be worth a fortune. As fuel the wood is equally famous, and the finest trees of our North American valley forests have been cut down to make winter fires. The hickory grows well and rapidly from seed, and it is to be hoped that within the range of its natural habitat it may be nowhere suffered to become extinct. The bitter nut, *C. amara* Nutt., is also found in our present field; it is a good tree for fuel but in the mill or factory possesses nothing like the value of its associate.

*Corylus americana* L. Hazel. Hazel-nut.

The hazel nut is so widely known as to require no more than mention here. It is the universal attendant of our native forest, the low, out-creeping border of the woods. It is astonishing how rapidly and easily the hazel extends its beneficent domain. The fruit is disseminated by our familiar birds. Blue-jays will attempt to carry two or three hazel-nuts at a time in their beaks, and will fly with a bunch of the fruit for long distances. In this way people are often surprised to find the hazel springing up about the borders of our artificial groves. The birds are the planters and the hazel simply occupies its own.

*Ostrya virginica*. Wild. Ironwood. Horn-beam.

A valuable though small tree is this, not uncommon. The wood grows rapidly up to a certain age; afterwards very slowly; is tough and exceedingly hard; makes good tool handles and firewood.

*Quercus*. The Oaks.

More than any trees of the forest, the oaks appeal to every lover of the wood. On Pilot Knob five distinct species of oak occur, and

three or four in other parts of our area. The universal species is of course the bur-oak, *Q. macrocarpa* Michx. This species occupies the very hardest and most unfavorable rocky or sandy hilltops, remote from all other arboreal vegetation. Next in frequency is the jack-oak, *Q. velutina*, occupying the whole forest area already referred to, the whole Mississippi valley. On the slopes of Pilot Knob beautiful specimens of *Q. coccinea* Wang., the scarlet oak, adorn the roadsides and fields, their thin elegantly cleft leaves shining with unusual lustre in the summer sun. In similar localities and in the valleys of all the wooded streams occurs another common species *Q. rubra*, L. the red oak. The three last named all belong to the black oak series; all have dark-colored, furrowed bark, bristle-tipped leaves and fruit, and acorns that take two years to mature. The bur-oak, on the other hand, belongs to the white oak group. Its leaves have rounded lobes, are never bristly; the bark is pale and often flaky, though in old trees apt to furrow, over certain areas, and the nuts form and mature in a single season. The white oak, *Q. alba* L. is the finest and most valuable oak in our northern woods, and is fortunately not rare in Iowa. The writer noted, however, in the district covered by this report but very few, and these in Forest township of Winnebago county.

All sorts of oaks may be transplanted but they, like other forest species, grow best from seed. Acorns spring up readily if protected from animals and covered lightly with leaves. When cared for they grow with surprising rapidity, easily making two or three feet a year in height. There is no good reason why on the farms of northern Iowa oaks, ash trees, walnuts and pines may not begin to supplant the useful, but less valuable soft maple and box-elder.

*Populus tremuloides*, Michx. Quaking-aspen.

A common little tree in all native groves. Of little value save as light fuel. Its nearest kin, *P. grandidentata* Michx., the large leaved aspen, or simply aspen, is much more valuable. It springs up quickly in clearings, grows in dense hillside groves and in a few years makes fine long straight poles, light and strong for use on the farm. Hundreds of these trees are found on the slopes leading up to Pilot Knob. The cotton-wood, *P. deltoidea* Marsh has been extensively planted here as in all our western country. The cotton-wood makes good fuel and has been of service as a wind-break. Does not however, make good groves.

*Salix* species.

Of willows there are many in our region. Prof. Shimek furnishes me the following list: *S. discolor*, Muhl; *S. amygdaloides* Anders., diamond willow; *S. cordata* Muhl., heart-leaved willow; *S. candida* Wild., hoary willow; *S. humilis* Marsh., prairie willow; *S. petiolaris* Smith,

has no common name. In fact, the willows are for our people little distinguished. Most of those here listed are mere shrubs without economic value save as ornamental plants. The first two named are small trees.

*Juniperus virginiana*, L. Red Cedar.

This is the only representative of the conifers or pine family in this part of Iowa. The white pine seems not to come so far south and west. The little red cedar is said to be still not rare about the shores of Rice lake, Winnebago county and many are reported as taken thence for planting on the farms. All the conifers usually planted in Iowa have been successfully reared by the farmers of the counties here discussed. So much in genuine arboriculture has here been already wisely done that we have high hope for greater success in time to come, when to the other crops making Iowa the land of varied husbandry shall be added a perennial harvest of forest products from trees of all our noblest species.

## CHAPTER II

### THE FIRST INHABITANTS

THE MOUND BUILDERS—DESCRIPTION OF THEIR RELICS—EARLY INVESTIGATORS—MOUND BUILDERS' DISTRICTS—WHO WERE THEY?—THE INDIANS—DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN GROUPS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY—THE IOWA—THE SAC AND FOX—BLACK HAWK AND KEOKUK—OTHER SAC AND FOX CHIEFS—POTAWATOMI—WINNEBAGO—PRINCIPAL TRIBES OF THE SANTEE SIOUX—MDEWAKANTON—SISSETON—WAHPEKUTE—WAHPETON.

Who were the first inhabitants of the American continent? This is a question over which ethnologists and archaeologists have pondered and speculated for at least a century. When Christopher Columbus made his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere in 1492, he believed that he had reached the goal of his long cherished ambitions, and that the country where he landed was the eastern shore of Asia. European explorers who followed him, entertaining a similar belief, thought the country was India and gave to the race of copper colored people they found here the name of "Indians." About a century and a half after the first white settlements were made, indications were discovered that the interior of the continent had once been inhabited by a peculiar people, whose mode of living was different from that of the Indians. These evidences were found in the mounds, earthworks, fragments of pottery, stone weapons and implements, etc. A report of the United States Bureau of Ethnology says: "During a period beginning some time after the close of the ice age and ending with the coming of the white man—or only a few years before—the central part of North America was inhabited by a people who had emerged to some extent from the darkness of savagery, had acquired certain domestic arts, and practised some well defined lines of industry. The location and boundaries inhabited by them are fairly well marked by the mounds and earthworks they erected."

The center of this ancient civilization—if such it may be called—seems to have been in what is now the State of Ohio, where the mounds are more numerous than in any other part of the country. Iowa may be regarded as its western frontier, though traces of this ancient race

have been noted west of the Missouri River. From the relics they left behind them, archaeologists have given to this peculiar people the name of

#### MOUND-BUILDERS

Most of the mounds discovered are of conical form, varying in height, and when opened have generally been found to contain human skeletons. For this reason such mounds have been designated by archaeologists as burial mounds. Next in importance comes the truncated pyramid—that is, a mound square or rectangular at the base and flattened on the top. On account of their greater height and the fact that on the summits of several of these pyramids have been found ashes and charcoal, the theory has been advanced that they were used as lookout stations, the charcoal and ashes being the remains of signal fires. In some parts of the country may still be seen well defined lines of fortifications or earthworks, sometimes in the form of a square, but more frequently of oval or circular shape and bearing every indication that they were erected and used as places of defense against hostile invaders. A work of this character near Anderson, Indiana, was connected by a subterranean passage with a spring on the bank of the White River, some fifty feet below the level of the earth-work. Still another class of relics, less numerous and widely separated, consists of one large mound surrounded by an embankment, outside of which are a number of smaller mounds. The smaller mounds in these groups rarely contain skeletons or other relics, and even in the large mound within the embankment only a few skeletons, implements or weapons have been found. The absence of these relics and the arrangement of the mounds have led antiquarians to believe that such places were centers of sacrifice or religious ceremony of some kind.

#### EARLY INVESTIGATORS

Among the first to make a systematic examination of the mounds were Squier and Davis, who about 1850 published a work entitled "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley." Between the years 1845 and 1848 these two archaeologists, working together, explored over two hundred mounds and earthworks, the description of which was published by the Smithsonian Institution. Following these pioneer investigators came Baldwin, McLean and a number of other writers on the subject, practically all of whom held to the theory that the Mound Builders belonged to a separate and distinct race and that many of the relics were of great antiquity. Some of these early writers took the view that the Mound Builders first established their civilization in

the Ohio Valley, from which region they gradually moved southwestwardly into Mexico and Central America, where the white man found their descendants in the Aztec Indians. Others, with arguments equally as plausible, contended that people who left these interesting relires originated in the South and slowly made their way northward to the country about the Great Lakes, where their further progress was checked by a hostile foe. Upon only one phase of the subject were these early authors agreed, and that was that the Mound Builders belonged to a very ancient and extinct race. The theory of great antiquity was sustained by the great trees, often several feet in diameter, which they found growing upon many of the mounds and earthworks, and the conclusion that the Mound Builders were a distinct race of people was supported by the fact that the Indians with whom the first white men came in contact had no traditions relating to the Mounds or the people who built them.

#### MOUND BUILDERS' DISTRICTS

The United States Bureau of Ethnology, soon after it was established, undertook the work of making an exhaustive and scientific investigation of the mounds and other relires left by this ancient people. Cyrus Thomas, of the bureau, in analyzing and compiling the information collected, has divided the country once inhabited by the Mound Builders into eight districts, each of which is marked by certain features not common to the others. In thus classifying the relires Mr. Thomas evidently did not adhere to any of the proposed theories as to the origin or first location of the Mound Builders, as he begins in the northwestern part of the country and proceeds toward the east and south, to wit:

1. The Dakotah District, which includes North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the northwestern part of Iowa;
2. The Huron-Iroquois District, embracing the country once inhabited by the Huron and Iroquois Indians, viz: the lower peninsula of Michigan, the southern part of Canada, a strip across the northern part of Ohio and the greater part of the State of New York.
3. The Illinois District, which includes the middle and eastern portions of Iowa, Northeastern Missouri, Northern Illinois and the western half of Indiana.
4. The Ohio District, which takes in all the State of Ohio, except the strip across the northern part already mentioned, the eastern half of Indiana and the southwestern portion of West Virginia.
5. The Appalachian District, which includes the mountainous regions of Southwestern Virginia, Western North Carolina, Eastern Tennessee and Northern Georgia.
6. The Tennessee District, which adjoins

the above and includes Middle and Western Tennessee, the southern portion of Illinois, practically all the State of Kentucky, a small section of Northern Alabama and the central portion of Georgia. 7. The Arkansas District, which embraces the state from which it takes its name, the southeastern part of Missouri and a strip across the northern part of Louisiana. 8. The Gulf District, which includes the country bordering on the Gulf of Mexico.

The Dakotah District includes the counties of Winnebago and Hancock and is therefore the only one in which this history is directly interested. As a rule the burial mounds of this district are small, but what they lack in archaeological interest is more than made up by the beautiful effigy mounds—that is, mounds constructed in the form of some bird or beast. Some are of the opinion that mounds of this class were made to represent the totem of some tribe or clan, while others think they are images of some living creature that was an object of veneration. Near Prairieville, Wisconsin, there is an effigy mound resembling a turtle, fifty-six feet in length, and not far from the town of Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, is the figure of a man lying on his back, 120 feet long. No mounds have been found in Winnebago or Hancock County, but along the Little Sioux River a number have been explored, and farther south, near Lehigh, Webster County, are the remains of an elaborate system of earthworks. The proximity of these relies on either side seems to indicate that, though the Mound Builder established no permanent domicile within the limits of Winnebago and Hancock counties, he doubtless passed back and forth through that region as he made his pilgrimages between the ancient settlements on the Little Sioux River and the old fort near Lehigh. Perhaps he trapped muskrats and hunted waterfowl about Rice Lake and along Lime Creek centuries before the white man knew that such a country as Iowa even existed.

#### WHO WERE THEY?

Going back to the various theories regarding the origin and age of the Mound Builders, it is worthy of note that in the more recent investigations the theory of great antiquity has been discredited. Archaeologists who have made extensive research among the mounds in connection with the work of the Bureau of Ethnology have also come to doubt the separate race theory and are practically a unit in the belief that the Mound Builder was nothing more than the ancestor, more or less remote, of the North American Indian. The principal reason for discarding the great age theory is found in the records left by the early French and Spanish explorers in the southern part of what is now the United States. These records show that the Natchez

Indians always built the house of their chief upon an artificial mound. As eminent an authority as Pierre Margry says: "When a chief dies they demolish his cabin and then raise a new mound, on which they build the cabin of the chief who is to replace the one deceased in this dignity, for the chief never lodges in the house of his predecessor."

How long this custom prevailed no one knows, but it may account for the large number of small artificial mounds seen throughout the country once inhabited by the Natchez and their ancestors. Through the work of the Bureau of Ethnology it has also been learned that the Yamasee Indians of Georgia built mounds over the warriors slain in battle, and Charlevoix found among the Canadian Indians certain tribes who built earthworks similar to those described by Thomas as having once existed in the Huron-Iroquois District.

Early investigators found in many of the small mounds burnt or baked clay and charcoal, for which they were at a loss to account. Subsequent inquiry has disclosed the fact that among certain tribes of Indians, particularly in the lower Mississippi country, the family hut was frequently built upon an artificial mound. This has led Brinton to advance the hypothesis that the house was constructed of poles, the cracks between them being filled with clay. When the head of the family died, the body was buried in a shallow grave under the center of the hut, which was then burned. This custom, which might have been followed for generations, would account for the burnt clay and charcoal, as well as the great number of small mounds, each containing a single human skeleton, the bones of which have sometimes been found charred.

Still another evidence that there is some relationship between the ancient Mound Builder and the Indian of more modern times is seen in the pottery made by some of the southwestern tribes, which is very similar in texture and design to that found in some of the ancient mounds. In the light of all these recent discoveries, it is not surprising that scientists are discarding the theories of separate race and great antiquity and setting up the claim that the Mound Builder was nothing more than the ancestor of the Indian found here by the first white men who came to America. Some archaeologists have even gone so far as to assert that the cliff dwellers of the Southwest are the remnant of the once numerous and widely distributed Mound Builders. However, the discovery of these evidences that the modern Indian is the offspring of the Mound Builder has not caused interest in the aboriginal inhabitant to diminish. Says Thomas: "The hope of ultimately solving the great problems is perhaps as lively today as in former years. But with the vast increase in knowledge in recent years, a modification of the hope entertained has taken place."

## THE INDIANS

The name of "Indian," which was given to the natives of North America soon after the continent was discovered, although a misnomer, has remained to the present time. At first the Indians were regarded as all belonging to one family, but it has since been learned that they were really divided into several groups or tribal confederacies, each of which differed from the others in certain physical and linguistic characteristics. At the beginning of the Sixteenth Century these groups were distributed over the continent of North America as follows:

In the far North, the country about the Arctic Circle was inhabited by the Eskimo, a tribe that has never played any conspicuous part in history, except as guides to polar expeditions.

The Algonquian family, the most numerous and powerful of all the Indian groups, occupied a large triangle, roughly bounded by the Atlantic coast from Labrador to Cape Hatteras and lines drawn from those two points to the western end of Lake Superior. This group was composed of numerous tribes, the best known of which were probably the Delaware, Ottawa, Miama, Sac, Fox and Potawatomi.

Along the shores of Lake Ontario and the upper waters of the St. Lawrence River, in the very heart of the Algonquian triangle, was the domain of the Iroquoian tribes, viz: The Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Mohawk and Cayuga. To the early colonists these tribes became known as the "Five Nations." Some years later the Tuscarora Indians were added to the confederacy, which then took the name of the "Six Nations."

South of the Algonquian country was a large region inhabited by the Muskhogean tribes, the principal ones being the Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Cherokee. The last named, so far as known, is the only Indian tribe that ever had a written language based upon a regular alphabet—a fact that bears out Adair's statement that the Muskhogean stock was the most intelligent of all the North American tribes.

In the Northwest, about the sources of the Mississippi River and extending westward to the Missouri, was the territory of the Siouan family, which was composed of a number of tribes noted for their physical prowess and warlike disposition.

South and west of the Siouan country the great plains and the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains were inhabited by the bold, vindictive Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Pawnee and other tribes, and still farther south, in what are now the states of Arkansas and Louisiana, lay the region occupied by the Caddoan group. Scattered over the country, here and there, were a number of isolated tribes that

claimed kinship with none of the great families. Inferior in numbers and often nomadic in their mode of living, these tribes are of little historic significance.

Volumes have been written about the North American Indians—their legends, traditions and customs—and the subject is practically inexhaustible. In a history such as this it is not the design to enter into any extended account of the entire Indian race, but to notice only those tribes whose history is intimately interwoven with the territory now comprising the State of Iowa, and especially the northwestern part, where the counties of Winnebago and Hancock are situated. These tribes were the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Sioux, Winnebago and Potawatomi.

#### THE IOWA

Although the Iowa Indians were not the most numerous or of the greatest importance historically, they are first mentioned because it was this tribe that gave the Hawkeye State its name, and they were probably the first Indians to establish themselves in the territory included in this history. Ethnologically they belonged to the Siouan group, but, according to their traditions they became allied at an early date with the Winnebago and lived with that tribe in the country north of the Great Lakes. They are first mentioned in history in 1690, when they occupied a district on the shores of Lake Michigan, under a chief called Man-han-gaw. Here they separated from the Winnebago and with the Otoe, Omaha and Ponca tribes moved toward the southwest. At the time of this separation the Iowa received the name of "Pa-ho-ja," or "Gray Snow Indians." They were also known as the "Sleepy Ones."

Schoolcraft says this tribe migrated no less than fifteen times. After separating from the Winnebago they took up their abode on the Rock River, in what is now the State of Illinois, where they were temporarily affiliated with the Sac and Foxes. From there they removed to the valley of the Iowa River. In 1848 an Iowa Indian prepared a map showing the movements of the tribe from the time they left the Winnebago nation. Connected with this map was a tradition giving the following account of the occupation of the Iowa Valley:

"After living on the Rock River for several years, the tribe left the Sac and Foxes and wandered off westward in search of a new home. Crossing the Mississippi, they turned southward and reached a high bluff near the mouth of the Iowa River. Looking off over the beautiful valley spread out before them, they halted, exclaiming 'Ioway! Ioway!' which in their language means 'This is the place!'"

Following their residence in the valley of the Iowa, they lived successively in the Des Moines Valley, on the Missouri River, then in what is now South Dakota, and in what is now Northwestern Iowa, about Spirit Lake and the headwaters of the Des Moines and Big Sioux Rivers. As the Indian had no way of keeping an accurate record of time, the dates when these various places were occupied are somewhat problematical. A Sioux tradition says that when that tribe first came to the country about the Falls of St. Anthony they found the Iowa Indians there and drove them out. Le Seuer found some of them in that locality in 1700 and supplied them with fire arms. In his report of the expedition up the Mississippi River, Le Seuer says the principal villages of the Iowa were "at the extreme headwaters of the River de Moyen."

In 1707 William de Lisle compiled a map of the northwestern part of Louisiana, on which is shown a traders' trail marked "Chemin des Voyageurs," beginning at the Mississippi River a few miles below the mouth of the Wisconsin and running westward across Northern Iowa to the vicinity of Spirit Lake. There, on the shore of a small lake, the identity of which is rather uncertain, is marked a "Village des Aiaonez." From this village the trail continues almost due west to the Bix Sioux River, where two more "Villages des Aiaonez" are shown, one on either side of the river. Jacob Van der Zee, in his "Reminiscences of the Northwest Fur Trade," mentions this trail, and it is also mentioned by Chittenden in his "American Fur Trade."

Dorsey divides the tribe into eight gentes or clans, to wit: Bear, Beaver, Buffalo, Eagle, Elk, Pigeon, Snake and Wolf. They worshiped a Great Spirit and had a tradition of a great flood which destroyed all the animals and people except those who escaped in a great canoe. The Great Spirit then made a new man and a new woman from red clay, and from this couple were descended all the Indian tribes. Hawks and rattlesnakes were objects of veneration and were never killed by these Indians.

Mahaska (White Cloud), one of the most noted chiefs of the Iowa tribe, claimed to be a direct descendant of the great chief Man-han-gaw. It is said that during his chieftainship he led his warriors in eighteen battles against the Sioux on the north and the Osage on the south and always came off victorious. Mahaska County, Iowa, bears his name. In 1824, accompanied by his wife, Rant-ehe-wai-me, he was one of a party of chiefs that visited the Great White Father at Washington. Upon their return Rant-ehe-wai-me cautioned the women of her tribe against the vices and follies of their white sisters as she saw them in the national capital. The following year the Iowa Indians ceded all their interest in Iowa lands to the United States.

## THE SAC AND FOX

These two tribes, which at one time inhabited practically the entire State of Iowa, are generally spoken of as one people, though as a matter of fact they were two separate and distinct tribes of the great Algonquian family, which formed an alliance for their mutual protection against their common enemies.

The Sacs—also called Sauks and Saukies—were known as the “People of the Outlet.” Some writers refer to them as “People of the yellow earth.” Their earliest known habitat was in the lower peninsula of Michigan, where they lived with the Potawatomi. The name Saginaw, as applied to a bay and city in Michigan, means “the place of the Sac” and indicates the region where they once dwelt. According to their traditions, they were here allied with the Potawatomi, Fox, Mascouten and Kickapoo tribes before they became an independent tribe. They are first mentioned as a separate tribe in the Jesuit Relations for 1640, though even then they were confederated with the tribes above mentioned and also with the Miami and Winnebago nations. Father Allouez, one of the early Jesuit missionaries, writing of these Indians in 1667, says: “They are more savage than all the other peoples I have met; they are a populous tribe, although they have no fixed dwelling place, being wanderers and vagabonds in the forest.”

Sac traditions tell how they were driven from the shores of Lake Huron by the Iroquois and Neuters before the middle of the Seventeenth Century. Upon being expelled from their hunting grounds there they retired by way of Mackinaw and about the middle of the century found a new abode along the shores of Green Bay, Wisconsin. This portion of their traditions is first told by Father Dablon, in the Jesuit Relations for 1671. Says he: “The Sacs, Pottawatomies and neighboring tribes, being driven from their own countries, which are the lands southward from Missilimakinae [Michilimackinac], have taken refuge at the head of this bay, beyond which one can see inland the Nation of Fire, with one of the Illinois tribes called Oumiami, and the Foxes.”

In the same year that this was written by Father Dablon, the Huron and Ottawa Indians started out to invade the country of the Sioux. On the way they persuaded the Sac and Potawatomi warriors to join the expedition. The allied tribes were defeated by the Sioux and suffered heavy losses. The surviving Sacs returned to the shores of Green Bay, where it seems they were content to remain quiet for several years before making any further warlike demonstrations against their enemies.

According to Dorsey, the tribe was divided into fourteen clans or gentes, to wit: Bass, Bear, Eagle, Elk, Fire Dragon, Fox, Great Lynx, Grouse, Potato, Sea (or Lake), Sturgeon, Thunder, Trout and Wolf. Ordinarily marriages were made between men and women belonging to different clans, though they were not forbidden between couples of the same clan. Polygamy was practiced to some extent, though in this respect the Saes were not so bad as some of the other Algonquian tribes. Their religion consisted of a belief in numerous "Manitous" and was rich in myth and fable.

The Foxes were also Algonquian Indians and resembled in many respects the Saes, with whom they ultimately became confederated. Their Indian name was Mesh-kwa-ke-hug (nearly always written Musquakie), signifying "People of the red earth." Sometimes they were designated as the "People of the other shore." Their original dwelling place is somewhat uncertain. According to their traditions they lived at a very early date on the Atlantic coast, in the vicinity of the present State of Rhode Island. Subsequently a portion of the tribe occupied the country along the southern shore of Lake Superior, from which they were driven by the Chippewa. In the early part of the Seventeenth Century Nieollet found a band of the Indians living on the Fox River, not far from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and in 1676 Father Allouez found some of them on the Wolf River in the same state. In his writings of that year he speaks of a "Musquakie village with a population of about five thousand."

The name "Fox" originated with the French, who called these Indians "Reynors" or "Renards." They were regarded by neighboring Indian tribes as "avaricious, thieving, passionate and quarrelsome." With an intense hatred for the French they planned the attack on the post at Detroit in 1712. The timely arrival of reinforcements saved the post and the Indians suffered an overwhelming defeat. Those who took part in this assault on Detroit then went to the village on the Wolf River spoken of by Father Dablon.

About 1730 the English and Dutch traders operating in the country about the Great Lakes, knowing of the hatred of the Foxes for the French, decided to take advantage of it for the purpose of driving out French competition. An alliance was therefore formed with the Fox chiefs, who were incited to make war on the French. In opposition to this movement the French enlisted the coöperation of the Huron, Ottawa, Potawatomi and some minor tribes. In the conflict which ensued the Foxes were defeated and found shelter among the Sac bands in the neighborhood of Green Bay. The French authorities in Canada, thinking the tribe had not been sufficiently punished and desiring to make their victory more complete, sent a detachment of

French soldiers and Indian allies, under a Lieutenant-Colonel De Villiers, to the Sac villages to demand the surrender of the fugitives. The demand was indignantly refused by the Sac chiefs, whereupon De Villiers ordered an attack upon the Sac village. A hard-fought battle followed, in which the French were the victors, but the refugees were not surrendered.

This occurred in 1733 and resulted in the alliance between the two tribes, who have since been generally regarded as one people. Their alliance, however, was more in the nature of a confederacy, each tribe retaining its identity, while one chief ruled over both.

Twelve Fox gentes are mentioned by Dorsey in one of the reports of the United States Bureau of Ethnology, viz: Bass, Bear, Big Lynx, Buffalo, Eagle, Fox, Pheasant, Sea, Sturgeon, Swan, Thunder and Wolf. It will be noticed that nine of these clans bear the name and totem of the same number of the Sac gentes, which seems to indicate that the two tribes sprang from the same stock. The principal deities worshiped by the Fox Indians were Wisaka and Kiyapata. The former ruled the day and the latter the night. Animal fable and mythology were the leading features of their religion and the tribe had many ceremonial observances. They practiced agriculture in a primitive way, raising corn, beans, tobacco, squashes and some other vegetables. In a few instances some big chief or warrior of note was permitted to have more than one squaw, but as a rule polygamous marriages were discountenanced.

Of all the Indians the Fox tribe was perhaps the only one that had what might be called a "coat of arms." This was a design consisting of an oblique line (supposed to represent a river) with the figure of a fox at each end on opposite sides. After a victory in war this emblem was painted or carved on rocks and trees to tell the story of their valor and at the same time serve as a warning to their enemies.

In 1731 the Sac village of Sau-ke-nuk on the Rock River, in Illinois, was founded. After the expedition of De Villiers the Sacs and Foxes living in Wisconsin were driven from that part of the country by the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, allies of the French, and joined those living at Sau-ke-nuk. At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century there were some eight thousand of the allied tribes living along the Rock River near its mouth. About 1780, or perhaps a few years before that date, some of these Indians crossed the Mississippi River near the present city of Prairie du Chien and took up their abode near the place where the city of Dubuque, Iowa, now stands. In 1788 these Indians granted to Julien Dubuque a concession to work the lead mines and sold him part of the lands claimed by them. Before the close of that year Dubuque established upon his concession the first white settlement in what is now the State of Iowa.

## BLACK HAWK AND KEOKUK

Two of the greatest chiefs in the history of the North American Indians belonged to the allied tribes of the Sacs and Foxes. They were Black Hawk and Keokuk, both born of Sae parents, but recognized as chiefs by both tribes. Black Hawk was a warrior and Keokuk a politician.

Black Hawk, whose Indian name was Ma-ka-ta-wi-mesha-ka-ka, was a member of the Thunder clan and was born at the village of Sauke-nuk, on the Rock River, in 1767. His father, Py-e-sa, was a direct descendant of Nan-a-ma-kee (Thunder), the founder of the clan and custodian of the great medicine bag of the Sae nation, which had been intrusted to him by the Great Spirit. Black Hawk was trained in the arts of war by his father and established his prowess in battle before he was nineteen years old. About that time his father was mortally wounded in an encounter with the Cherokees and the custody of the medicine bag passed to his son. This medicine bag represented the soul of the Sae nation and had never been disgraced. To prepare himself for the onerous duty of preserving it unsullied, Black Hawk took no part in the military affairs of his tribe for some five years. During that period he passed his time in praying to the Great Spirit for the necessary strength and wisdom to perform his duty as custodian of the sacred bag. Hour after hour he sat upon the promontory near his home on the Rock River, smoking and meditating. The promontory is still called "Black Hawk's Watch Tower," now a favorite summer resort, connected with the city of Rock Island by an electric railway. At the end of his five years of preparation he assumed the chieftanship of his tribe and the custody of the medicine bag, and from that time to his death he guarded carefully the sacred relie and the interests of his people according to his view.

By the treaty negotiated at St. Louis in the fall of 1804 between some of the Sac and Fox chiefs and Gen. William H. Harrison, the United States was given permission to build a military post on the west side of the Mississippi River. In 1808 the old post of Fort Madison was established where the city of that name now stands. Black Hawk and some of his followers were dissatisfied with the terms of the treaty and insisted that the building of Fort Madison was a violation of Indian rights. When the relations between the United States and Great Britian became strained in 1812, the British Government took advantage of this dissatisfaction and secured the coöperation of the Black Hawk band. Colonel Dixon, the English officer in command at Green Bay, sent two large pirogues loaded with goods to the Sac and Fox village on the Rock River, and then went in person

to superintend the distribution of the goods among the Indians. No better man could have been selected for the purpose. Dixon was naturally crafty and thoroughly understood the Indian character. When he took the hand of Black Hawk he looked straight into the eyes of the chief and said: "You will now hold us fast by the hand. Your English father has found that the Americans want to take your country from you, and has sent me and my braves to drive them back to their own country."

This speech won Black Hawk, who joined the British and was with the Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, when the latter fell in the Battle of the Thames. After the close of the War of 1812 a large part of the Sac and Foxes entered into a treaty of peace with the United States and agreed to remove to the west side of the Mississippi River. Black Hawk and his immediate followers remained obstinate and their obstinacy finally culminated in Black Hawk's War in 1832. At the close of that war further negotiations between the allied tribes and the United States were undertaken. In these negotiations the representatives of the Government ignored Black Hawk and recognized Keokuk as the principal chief of the Sac and Fox confederacy. It is said that when the announcement of Keokuk's recognition was made in open council, Black Hawk was so enraged that he jerked off his loin cloth and slapped Keokuk in the face with it. A report of the United States Bureau of Ethnology says: "The act of creating Keokuk chief of the Sac and Foxes has always been regarded with ridicule by both the Sac and Foxes, for the reason that he was not of the ruling clan."

After Black Hawk was thus unceremoniously deposed as chief he retired to his new village on the Des Moines River, near Iowaville, where he passed his last years in peace. He died there on October 3, 1838. About a year later it was discovered that his grave had been robbed, but through the efforts of Governor Lucas the bones were recovered and sent to St. Louis, where they were properly cleaned and the skeleton was wired together. It was then returned to the governor and the sons of the old chief were content to permit it to remain in the custody of the state. The skeleton was afterward presented to the Burlington Geological and Historical Society and it was among the relics destroyed by fire in 1855. Black Hawk probably was never in that portion of Iowa now comprising Winnebago and Hancock counties, but his people claimed the land in this section of the state. Through the treaty of 1832, which followed immediately after the Black Hawk war, the first land in the State of Iowa was opened to white settlement under the laws of the United States. Gradually the white settlements were extended westward until Winnebago and Hancock counties came within the domain of civilization.

Keokuk (the Watchful Fox) was born near Rock Island, Illinois, in 1788, and was therefore Black Hawk's junior by about twenty years. It has been claimed by some that his mother was a French half-breed. If so he was not a chief by heredity, but won that distinction through his political ingenuity and power of intrigue. One of his biographers says: "He was ambitious and while always involved in intrigue never openly exposed himself to his enemies, but cunningly played one faction against the other for his personal advantage."

It was during the War of 1812 that Keokuk inaugurated the policy that made him a leader among his people and afterward resulted in his being recognized as chief by the United States. While Black Hawk and some of his warriors were absent from the village on the Rock River fighting on the side of the British, news was received that a body of Federal troops was marching into the Sac and Fox country. Consternation reigned in the village and some of the Indians began making preparations to cross the Mississippi. Keokuk saw his opportunity and was quick to grasp it. Calling the inhabitants of the village together, he addressed them thus: "I have heard with sorrow that you have determined to leave our village and cross the Mississippi, merely because you have been told that the white soldiers are coming in this direction. Would you leave our village, desert our homes and fly before an enemy approaches? Give me charge of your warriors and I will defend the village while you sleep."

This little speech won the confidence of the people and Keokuk was placed in command. The troops failed to appear and many of the inhabitants of the village, with that superstition which formed a part of the Indian character, believed that an attack was prevented through the precautions taken by Keokuk. By the time of the Black Hawk war his influence was great enough to prevent a large number of the young men from taking part. It was chiefly because he was the leader of the peace party that the United States officials recognized him as the principal chief of the allied tribes after the war, and in all subsequent dealings with the Sacs and Foxes.

During the Black Hawk war an incident occurred that illustrates the manner in which Keokuk molded public opinion. A number of warriors grew dissatisfied and wanted to join Black Hawk in the effort to recover the Rock River country. They importuned Keokuk to permit them to take part in the war, and some of them even went so far as to hold a war dance and commence preparations for taking the field. Keokuk apparently acquiesced in the demands and took part in the war dance, at the conclusion of which a council was held. With solemn mien Keokuk arose and addressed the council as follows:

Warriors: I am your chief. It is my duty to lead you to war if

you are determined to go. (Here the speaker made a long pause while a murmur of approbation ran through the council, after which he continued.) But, remember, the United States is a great nation. The great father at Washington has a long arm. Unless we conquer we must perish. I will lead you to war against the white men on one condition. That is we shall first put our old men, our women and children to death, to save them from a lingering death by starvation, and then resolve that when we cross the Mississippi we will never retreat, but perish among the graves of our fathers, rather than yield to the white men."

This speech had its effect, checked the warlike sentiment, and resulted in the abandonment of the expedition. It was a typical instance of the wily chief's methods—deftly raising doubts in the minds of his followers, skilfully interposing objections while apparently being in sympathy with a movement, until he won a majority over to his view and thus strengthened his position for the next crisis.

After the treaty of 1832 Keokuk lived on a reservation of 400 square miles on the Iowa River. In 1836 this reservation was sold to the United States and he removed to what is now Wapello County. There he lived until the treaty of October 11, 1842, when he removed to a new village, about five miles southeast of Fort Des Moines. In 1845 he went with his tribesmen to Kansas, where he died in April, 1848. In 1883 his remains were brought to Iowa and interred in Rand Park at Keokuk, upon a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. On October 22, 1913, a monument over his grave was unveiled by the Keokuk chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

#### OTHER SAC AND FOX CHIEFS

Prominent among the Sac and Fox chiefs were Appanoose, Poweshiek and Wapello, each of whom was the leader of a considerable band and stood high in the tribal councils. In the language of the tribe the name Appanoose means "a chief when a child," showing that he was a chief by inheritance. He was a Sac and was a member of the peace party at the time of the Black Hawk war. Poweshiek, a chief of the same rank as Appanoose, escorted Gen. Joseph M. Street through the lands ceded by the treaty of 1837, and after the removal of the Indians to the west of what was called the "Red Rock Line" in 1843 he located on the Skunk River, near the present city of Colfax, in Jasper County. When the main body of the tribe removed to Kansas in 1845-46, a portion of Poweshiek's band located in Tama County, Iowa. Wapello was born at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, in 1787, and died near the forks of the Skunk River on March 15, 1842, more

than six months before the negotiation of the treaty that forced his people from their hunting grounds in Iowa to a strange land beyond the Missouri River. He was a warm personal friend of General Street, agent of the Sac and Foxes, and was buried by his side at the Sac and Fox agency (now Agency City, Wapello County). All three of those chiefs were with the party that visited Washington, D. C., in 1837, and the people of Iowa have named counties in their honor.

Matanequa, the last war chief of the Sac and Foxes, deserves more than passing mention. He was born at Dubuque about 1810 and is said to have been a typical Indian, both physically and intellectually. Like Keokuk, he was not a member of the ruling clan, but won his title of chief through his bravery in battle and his skill in controlling men. His high order of executive ability was recognized by his people in July, 1857, when he was selected as one of the five men to choose a new place of residence in Iowa for the band. He and his four associates purchased eighty acres of land in Tama County, to which they removed the members of their band. Subsequently other tracts were purchased until they owned about three thousand acres. Mata-nequa was the last survivor of the five men who selected the location. His death occurred on October 4, 1897, and such was the esteem in which he was held by the white people that many citizens of Tama City closed their places of business to attend his funeral. He has been called "The Warwick of the Musquakies"—a man who elevated others to positions of power but was never king himself.

#### THE POTAWATOMI

This tribe was at one time one of the powerful tribes of the great Algonquian family. They were closely allied with the Sac and Fox Indians and many of the early treaties made with those tribes were approved or ratified by the Potawatomi before they became effective. When the French missionaries and traders first came in contact with the Potawatomi they were living near the northern limits of the lower Michigan peninsula, where they were known as the "Nation of Fire." In 1664 Nicollet met with some of them in Wisconsin, and Baequeville de la Potherie, an early French writer, says: "In 1665 or 1666 the Potawatomi took the southern and the Sac the northern shores of Green Bay, and the Winnebago, who were not fishermen, went back into the forests to live on venison and bear meat."

About the close of the Revolutionary war a part of the tribe moved eastward and in the early years of the Nineteenth Century occupied practically all that part of Indiana north of the Wabash River. On August 24, 1816, this branch of the Potawatomi ceded to the United States the greater portion of their lands about the head of Lake

Michigan, including the site of the present City of Chicago, and received in exchange therefor some of the Sac and Fox lands in Western Illinois. In 1833 they ceded all their lands in Indiana and Illinois and received a reservation of 5,000,000 acres in Southwestern Iowa, to which they were removed in 1835. Peter A. Sarpy was one of the first traders among them after they came to Iowa, and in 1838 Davis Hardin opened a farm and built a mill for them near Council Bluffs, which city is the county seat of a county bearing the tribal name, though their agency was located in what is now Mills County. At the time they removed to Iowa the tribe numbered about three thousand people.

By the treaty of June 5, 1846, the Potawatomi relinquished their title to their Iowa lands and received in exchange a reservation thirty miles square in Kansas. At that time there were some Mormons living in the vicinity of Council Bluffs and on May 8, 1846, one of the Mormon elders wrote: "No game or wild animal of any description is to be seen around here, having been thinned out by a tribe of Indians called Pottawattamies, whose trails and old camping grounds are to be seen in every direction."

By the winter of 1847 all the Potawatomi were removed to Kansas, except a small band which remained to hunt about the headwaters of the Des Moines River. After the removal to Kansas a few members of the tribe grew homesick for their old hunting grounds in Iowa and wandered back under the leadership of a minor chief known as "Johnnie Green." For several years they hunted, fished and roamed about, unmolested by the white people, until the majority of them died and the remaining few were merged with the Musquakies near Tama City. A remnant of the tribe still lives in Kansas.

#### THE WINNEBAGO

Although a tribe of the Siouan family, far back in the past, the Winnebago became allied with the Algonquian tribes living about the Great Lakes, and some ethnologists class them as members of the Algonquian group. As early as 1669 Jesuit missionaries and French traders found them allied with the Iowa, Potawatomi, Chippewa, Sac and Fox and other Algonquian tribes. In the Revolutionary war a large number of Winnebago warriors fought on the side of the British. A portion of the tribe was in the battle of Fallen Timbers against the forces commanded by Gen. Anthony Wayne in the summer of 1794 and again in the battle of Tippecanoe in November, 1811, a number of Winnebago braves were engaged. In 1812 some of them joined the Potawatomi in the assault upon Fort Dearborn (now Chicago). They

were friendly to Black Hawk at the time of his uprising in 1832, though it was through the treachery of certain members of the tribe that Black Hawk was captured.

After the Black Hawk war they ceded their lands in Wisconsin and Illinois to the United States and removed to the "Neutral Ground" in Iowa, where they acted as a sort of buffer between the Sioux on the north and the Sac and Fox on the south. In 1846 they were given a reservation near Mankato, Minnesota, where they lived until after the Sioux hostilities in 1862, when they were removed to a new reservation on the Missouri River in South Dakota. One of the Winnebago chiefs was Wee-no-slick (or Winneshiek), for whom one of the north-eastern counties of Iowa was named. Another chief was De-co-rah, who delivered Black Hawk a prisoner to the Indian agent at Prairie du Chien at the close of the Black Hawk war. By intermarriage with the Sacs and Foxes they became closely affiliated with the allied tribes and roamed freely all over the State of Iowa.

It was from this tribe that Winnebago County derived its name. When the first white settlers came into the county, and for some years thereafter, roving bands of Winnebago Indians made their temporary home within the limits of the county. At times there would be as many as one hundred living along the Lime Creek valley or about Coon Grove, and at other times there would be but a mere handful of stragglers. During the summer seasons they would cache their cooking utensils, leave their tepees standing and go northward into Minnesota to hunt and trap. At that time the Winnebago agency was located about forty miles north of Forest City. They were not unfriendly to the whites, but their petty thievery caused the settlers a great deal of annoyance. It was not a difficult matter, however, to recover stolen articles, as two or three cool-headed, determined men could go into an encampment of fifty Winnebagoes and recover their property without serious opposition.

There was a deadly enmity existing between the Winnebago and Sioux Indians and when hunting parties of the two tribes happened to meet there was certain to be a fight. Several of these engagements occurred in Northern Iowa, a few of them after the first settlements were made in Winnebago County. In 1862 the old enmity between the two tribes was allayed sufficiently for some of the Winnebago warriors to join with their hereditary foes in the general uprising and the massacre of white settlers at New Ulm and Mankato, Minnesota. News of this massacre was brought to Forest City one night, soon after midnight, by refugees from Minnesota. The people of the town were aroused from their slumbers by the report that the Indians were coming and quite a number of them fled in quest of hiding places.

Scouts were sent out and came back with the report that the Indians had been driven back, when the excitement soon passed over. Not long after that the Indians were removed to Dakota and were seen in Winnebago County no more.

#### THE SIOUX

Last, but by no means that least in importance in the history of Northwestern Iowa, were the Siouan or Dacotah tribes, the principal branch of which was the Santee or I-san-yan-ti Sioux—divided into the Mdewakanton, Sisseton, Wahpekute and Wahpeton bands. T. S. Williamson, who spent several years among the Sioux, studying their language and traditions, says their original habitat was along the shores of the Lake of the Woods and the country north of the Great Lakes. French explorers and missionaries first came in contact with them in 1640, but they are first mentioned in history by Radisson and Grosseliers, who in 1662 held a council with a large number of their chiefs and head men near Mille Lacs, now in the State of Minnesota. When Father Hennepin ascended the Mississippi River in 1680, he found the country now comprising Minnesota and the northern part of Iowa inhabited by the Sioux, whose numerical strength he estimated at about forty thousand. Hennepin and his associates were captured by the Sioux in April, 1680, and held prisoners until the following September, when they were rescued by Du Luth. Says Williamson:

“From what was written on this subject by Hennepin, La Hontan, Le Sueur and Charlevoix, and from maps published under the superintendence of these authors, it is sufficiently clear that in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century the principal residence of the Isanyanti Sioux was about the headwaters of the Rum River, whence they extended their hunts to the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers and down the latter nearly or quite as far as the mouth of the Wisconsin.”

#### THE MDEWAKANTON

The name of this tribe, or band, was derived from three words in the Sioux language, to wit: Mde, “lake,” Wakon, “sacred mystery,” and otonwe, “village.” They were, therefore, known as “The People of Mystery Lake Village.” The Mdewakanton claimed to be the parent stock from which all the other Sioux tribes had sprung. When first encountered by the French explorers they were living about Mille Lacs (called by them Knife Lake), in Minnesota. Early missionaries mentioned them as the Nadowessioux. Long describes them as “good-looking, straight, not overly tall and remarkable for symmetry of

form." This band did not figure so prominently in the events of Northwestern Iowa as some of the others.

#### THE SISSETON

Some ethnologists say the Sisseton was one of the original seven Sioux tribes. Hennepin found some of them in 1680 near Mille Lacs, where their hunting grounds adjoined those of the Mdewakanton. Lewis and Clark, when they went up the Missouri River in 1804, met some of the Sisseton chiefs in what is now the southeastern part of South Dakota and estimated the number of warriors belonging to the band at about two hundred. Neill says that in 1850 they could muster twenty-five hundred fighting men. At that time they lived in Western Minnesota and the southeastern part of South Dakota. In their hunting expeditions they came into Northwestern Iowa, but there is no evidence to show that they ever claimed a permanent residence within the limits of this state.

#### THE WAHPEKUTE

The name of this tribe meant in the Sioux language "Shooters in the leaves," indicating that they were huntsmen and lived in the forests. One of their early chiefs was "White Owl," the Chippewa name of whom was "Wa-pa-cut," and some writers claim that the tribal name was derived from this similarity. They had no fixed villages and lived in skin lodges or tepees that were easily transported from one place to another as they roved around on their hunting migrations. In 1766 Carver met them on the Minnesota River. Lewis and Clark found them in 1804 on both sides of the Minnesota, below the mouth of the Redwood, and estimated the number of warriors at less than two hundred. Two years later Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike spoke of them as being "the smallest band of the Sioux, residing generally between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and hunting commonly at the head of the Des Moines."

Pike also pronounced them "the most stupid of all the Sioux," and when Maj. Stephen H. Long made his exploration of the St. Peter's River in 1824 he met some of the Wahpekute, of whom he said: "This tribe has a very bad name, being considered to be a lawless set of men. They have a regular chief, Wialunga (the Raven), who is acknowledged as such by the Indian agent, but who, disgusted by their misbehavior, withdrew from them and resides at Wapasha's."

At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century they occupied the country of Northwestern Iowa and Southwestern Minnesota. They

joined in the treaties of 1830 and 1851, but six years after the latter treaty some ten of fifteen lodges, under the disreputable chief, Ink-pa-du-ta, committed the Spirit Lake massacre.

#### THE WAHPETON

Students of Indian history and tradition are practically unanimous in the belief that the Wahpeton was one of the seven primary tribes of the great Sioux nation. The name signifies "Dwellers among the leaves." Like the Mdewakanton, the warriors of this tribe were well formed, good-looking men. In 1680 their principal place of residence was near Mille Lacs, but fifty years later they occupied the country along the lower Minnesota River, their headquarters being near the present City of Belleplaine. Long visited the tribe in 1824, and in his report says:

"They wore small looking glasses suspended from their garments. Others had papers of pins, purchased from the traders, as ornaments. We observed one, who appeared to be a man of some note among them, had a live sparrow-hawk on his head by way of distinction; this man wore also a buffalo robe on which eight bear tracks were painted. The squaws we saw had no ornament of value. The dress of the women consisted of a long wrapper of dark calico, with short sleeves. Others wore a calico garment which covered them from the shoulders to the waist; a piece of blue broadcloth, wound around the waist, its ends tucked in, extended to the knee. They also wore leggings of blue or scarlet cloth. Hampered by such a costume, their movements were not graceful."

Chief Other-Day, who played such a conspicuous part in the Indian uprising of 1862, was a Wahpeton. Between the various Sioux tribes and the Sacs and Foxes there was a deadly enmity. The United States Government tried to establish a boundary between them that would keep them from being at constant war with each other, but with only partial success. The treaties negotiated for this purpose, as well as those by which the lands of Northwestern Iowa passed into the hands of the white men, are described in the next chapter. R. A. Smith, in his History of Dickinson County says the last hostile meeting between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes was in Kossuth County, Iowa, in April, 1852, "between two straggling bands, both of whom at that time were trespassers and had no legal right on Iowa soil. The number engaged was about seventy on each side and the result was a complete victory for the Sacs and Foxes."

## CHAPTER III

### THE PERIOD OF PREPARATION

THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN—EARLY EXPLORATIONS IN AMERICA—STRENGTHENING SPANISH CLAIMS—WORK OF THE ENGLISH—FRENCH EXPLORATIONS—MARQUETTE AND JOLIET—LA SALLE'S EXPEDITIONS—SETTLEMENT OF LOUISIANA—CONFLICTING INTERESTS—FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR—CLARK'S CONQUEST OF THE NORTHWEST—NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI—THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE—TREATY OF PARIS—EXPLORING THE NEW PURCHASE—ACQUISITION OF THE INDIAN LANDS—TREATY OF 1804—THE NEUTRAL GROUND—TREATY OF 1830—TREATY OF 1832—TREATY OF 1842—TREATY OF TRAVERSE DES SIOUX.

Civilization is the product of a gradual evolution. Winnebago and Hancock counties, like all the political divisions or subdivisions of the civilized nations of the world, are the outgrowth of a series of events dating back for many years. Bastiat, the eminent French writer on political economy, once wrote an essay entitled "The Seen and the Unseen," the object of which was to show how necessary it is to be able to reason from the effect (the Seen) back to the cause (the Unseen). The theories advanced in that essay will apply to history as well as to economics. The people of Winnebago and Hancock counties see now on every hand the evidences of progress; the great State of Iowa, with its busy commercial centers, its fertile fields and miles of railroad; the thriving towns in their own counties, with their banks and public buildings; but do they ever pause to consider the forces which brought about the present state of development? Long before the counties, as such, were even dreamed of, the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus was the first link in a chain of events that culminated in the establishment of the American Republic and the division of the interior of North America into states and counties. In order that the reader may understand how Iowa and its counties were called into existence by this process of evolution, it is deemed advisable to give a general account of the events that preceded and led up to their establishment.

## EARLY EXPLORATIONS

Spain was the first European nation to lay claim to the New World. In 1493, the year following the first voyage of Columbus to America, the pope granted to the King and Queen of Spain "all countries inhabited by infidels." The extent of the continent discovered the year before was not then known, but Spain was a Catholic nation, the whole of what is now the United States was inhabited by Indians who knew not the religion of the Catholic Church and therefore came within the category of "infidels." Hence, in a vague way, the papal grant included the present State of Iowa.

Three years later Henry VII of England granted to John Cabot and his sons a patent of discovery, possession and trade "to all lands they may discover and lay claim to it in the name of the English crown." During the next four years the Cabots, acting under this patent, explored the Atlantic coast and made discoveries upon which England at the beginning of the Sixteenth Century claimed practically all the central portion of North America.

Farther northward the French Government, through the discoveries of Jacques Cartier, laid claim to the Valley of the St. Lawrence River and the country about the Great Lakes, from which base they pushed their explorations westward toward the sources of the Mississippi River and southward into the Valley of the Ohio.

Thus at the very beginning of American history, three great European nations were actively engaged in making explorations and establishing dominion over certain portions of the Western Hemisphere. Following the usage of nations, each claimed title to the lands "by right of discovery." It is not surprising that in course of time a controversy arose among these three great powers as to which was the rightful possessor of the soil.

## STRENGTHENING SPANISH CLAIMS

In November, 1519, Hernando Cortez landed in Mexico with a strong force of Spanish soldiery, captured Montezuma, the "Mexican Emperor," and after a two years' war succeeded in establishing Spanish supremacy. It was not long until Cortez fell into disfavor with the Spanish authorities at Madrid, but possession of the country was retained and Mexico was given the name of New Spain. Military governors failed to give satisfaction in controlling the affairs of the conquered province, and in 1535 Antonio de Mendoza was appointed viceroy, with almost unlimited powers. He was known as the "good viceroy." By his diplomacy he succeeded in establishing friendly

relations with the native inhabitants and did much toward advancing their interests. Under Mendoza and his successors, many of the Indians were converted to the Catholic faith and exploration and settlement were pushed northward into California, New Mexico and Texas.

The grant of the pope to infidel countries was further strengthened in 1540-42 by the expedition of Hernando de Soto into the interior of the continent. De Soto was born in Spain about 1496 and had been connected with some of the early expeditions to Peru, in which service he demonstrated his qualifications to command. Charles I appointed him governor of Florida and Cuba in the spring of 1538 and one of his first official acts was to issue orders for the fortification of the harbor of Havana. About a year later he was ordered by his royal master to explore the interior of Florida.

With about one thousand men, he left Havana on May 12, 1539, and the following month marched his little army into the interior. At a place called Tascaluza he met a large force of hostile Indians and a battle ensued which lasted for several hours, resulting in the defeat of the savages. The Spanish loss was seventy killed and a number wounded, among whom was De Soto himself. This battle delayed the movement of the expedition until the wounded were sufficiently recovered to resume the march. Like all the early Spanish explorers, De Soto's chief object was to discover rich mines of the precious metals. After wandering about through the forests until the spring of 1541, he came to the Mississippi River, not far from the present City of Memphis, Tennessee. He then tried to reach the Spanish settlements in Mexico, but was stricken with fever and died in the wilderness, his body being buried in the river he had discovered. A few of his men finally managed to reach Florida and gave an account of the country through which they had passed. Upon their report Spain claimed "all the land bordering upon the Grande River and the Gulf of Mexico."

#### WORK OF THE ENGLISH

While Spain was operating in the West Indies and along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, the English were by no means idle. In 1620 the British crown, ignoring Spain's papal grant and the claims based upon the explorations of De Soto, issued to the Plymouth Company a charter which included "all the lands between the fortieth and forty-eight parallels of north latitude from sea to sea." The entire State of Iowa was included in this grant. Eight years later (1628) the Massachusetts Bay Company received a charter from the English Government to a strip of land one hundred miles wide, "extending from sea to sea." Had the lands of the Massachusetts Bay Company

been surveyed, the northern boundary of this one-hundred-mile strip would have crossed the Mississippi River not far from the present City of McGregor and the southern not far from Davenport.

Thus it was that Iowa, or at least a portion of it, was early claimed by both Spain and England "by right of discovery," though no representative of either country had ever set foot upon the soil. No efforts were made by either Spain or England to extend settlement into the interior. The Spaniards were so intent upon discovering rich gold and silver mines that no attention was paid to founding permanent settlements, while the English were apparently content with their little colonies at Jamestown, Virginia, and in New England.

#### FRENCH EXPLORATIONS

In the matter of extending her explorations and planting colonies, France was perhaps more aggressive than England and Spain put together. Port Royal was settled in 1604 and Quebec and founded by Samuel Champlain in 1608. As early as 1611 Jesuit missionaries from the French settlements in Canada were among the Indian tribes along the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. In 1616 a French explorer named Le Carron visited the country of the Iroquois and Huron Indians. The reports of Le Carron and the missionaries showed the possibilities of opening up a profitable trade with the natives, especially in furs, and French explorations were extended still farther westward. In 1634 Jean Nicollet, agent of the "Company of One Hundred," which was authorized by the King of France to engage in the Indian trade, explored the western shore of Lake Michigan about Green Bay and went as far west as the Fox River country, in what is now the State of Wisconsin. He is said to have been the first white man to make a report upon the region west of the Great Lakes.

Early in the year 1665 Claude Allouez, one of the most zealous of Jesuit missionaries, visited the Indians in the vicinity of what is now known as Ashland Bay, on the southern shore of Lake Superior. In the fall of the same year he held a council with representatives of several of the western tribes at the Chippewa village, not far from Ashland Bay. At this council Chippewa, Sioux, Sac, Fox, Potawatomi and Illini chiefs were present. To them and their people Allouez promised the protection of the great French father and paved the way for a profitable trade. Here Allouez also learned from some of the Sioux and Illini chiefs of a great river farther to the westward, "called by them the Me-sa-sip-pi, which they said no white man had yet seen (they knew nothing of De Soto's discovery of the river more than twenty years before), and along which fur-bearing animals abounded."

Three years later Father Allouez and Claude Dablon, a Jesuit associate, founded the mission of St. Mary's, the oldest white settlement within the present State of Michigan. The French authorities in Canada, influenced by the reports of Nicollet and the missionaries, sent Nicholas Perrot as the accredited agent of the French Government into the country to arrange for a grand council with the Indians. The council was held at St. Mary's in May, 1671. Before the close of that year Father Jacques Marquette, one of the most influential of the Jesuit Fathers in America, founded the mission at Point St. Ignace for the benefit of the Huron Indians. For many years this mission was regarded as the key to the great unexplored West, and its founder was destined to play an important part in the early history of the country.

#### MARQUETTE AND JOLIET

Father Marquette had heard the reports concerning the great river to the westward and was filled with a desire to discover it, but was deterred from making any attempt in that direction until after Perrot's council in 1671, which placed the French and Indians upon a more friendly footing. Even then he was delayed for nearly two years with his preparations and in obtaining the consent of the Canadian officials. In the spring of 1673, armed with the proper credentials, he went to Michilimackinac to complete his arrangements for the voyage. It is said the friendly Indians, who had formed an attachment for the missionary, tried to dissuade him from the undertaking by telling him that the Indians living along the great river were cruel and bloodthirsty, and that the stream itself was the abode of terrible monsters that could easily swallow a canoe loaded with men.

Such stories had no effect upon the intrepid priest, unless it was to make him the more determined, and on May 13, 1673, accompanied by Louis Joliet, an explorer and trader, and five voyageurs, with two large canoes, the little expedition left the mission. Passing up the Green Bay to the mouth of the Fox River, they ascended that stream to the portage, crossed over to the Wisconsin River, down which they floated until June 17, 1673, when their canoes shot out upon the broad bosom of the Mississippi. That bright June morning white men beheld for the first time the bluffs of Iowa, near the present City of McGregor. Turning their canoes down stream they descended the great Father of Waters until the 25th, when they landed on the west bank, "sixty leagues below the mouth of the Wisconsin River," where they noticed footprints in the soft earth. Sixty leagues below the mouth of the Wisconsin would throw this landing place about twelve miles above the present City of Keokuk, Iowa. There is little doubt that Marquette

and Joliet and their voyageurs were the first white men to set foot upon Iowa soil.

When Marquette and Joliet saw the footprints they decided to follow them and learn something of the natives. Leaving the voyageurs to guard the canoes and supplies, they followed the trail for several miles, when they came to an Indian village and noticed two other villages in the vicinity. The Indians informed the two Frenchmen that they belonged to the Illini tribe and that the name of their village, as well as the river upon which it was located, was "Moingona." After a visit of several days among the Indians Marquette and Joliet were accompanied back to the river by the chiefs and a large party of braves. As they were about to reembark, one of the chiefs addressed Marquette as follows:

"I thank the black-gown chief for taking so much pains to come and visit us. Never before has the earth been so beautiful nor the sun so bright. Never has the river been so calm and free from rocks, which your canoe has removed. Never has the tobacco had so fine a flavor, nor our corn appeared so beautiful as we behold it today. Ask the Great Spirit to give us life and health, and be you pleased to come and dwell among us."

One of the chiefs then presented Marquette with an elaborately decorated calumet, or peace pipe, as a token of the tribe's good wishes, after which the canoes were pushed out into the stream and the voyage was continued. They descended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas River, where they met with a tribe of Indians whose language they could not understand, when they turned back up the river. They reached the French settlement at Michilimackinac after an absence of some four months, during which time they had traveled about two thousand five hundred miles. Joliet was a good topographer and he prepared a map of the country through which they had passed. The reports of their voyage, when presented to the French governor of Canada, made the knowledge of the Mississippi's existence a certainty and steps were soon afterward taken to claim the country it drained in the name of France.

#### LA SALLE'S EXPEDITIONS

In 1674 Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, was granted the seigneurie of Fort Frontenac, where the City of Kingston, Canada, is now situated, and on May 12, 1678, Louis XIV, then King of France, granted him a permit to continue the explorations of Marquette and Joliet, "find a port for the King's ships in the Gulf of Mexico, discover the western parts of New France, and find a way to penetrate Mexico."

La Salle's ambition was to follow the Mississippi from its source to its mouth. Late in the year 1678 he made his first attempt to reach and descend the river, but it ended in failure, chiefly because his preparations had not been made with sufficient care. Affairs at Fort Frontenac then claimed his attention until December, 1681, when he started upon what proved to be his successful expedition. He was accompanied by his lieutenant, Henri de Tonti; Jacques de la Metarie, a notary; Jean Michel, who was surgeon; Father Zenobe Membre, a Recollet missionary, and a "number of Frenchmen bearing arms." It is not necessary here to follow this little expedition through all its vicissitudes and hardships in the dead of winter in a wild, unexplored country. Suffice it to say that on April 8, 1682, La Salle and Tonti passed through two of the channels at the mouth of the Mississippi, both reaching the Gulf of Mexico. The next day La Salle formally took possession of "all the country drained by the great river and its tributaries in the name of France, and conferred upon the territory the name of Louisiana, in honor of Louis XIV, the French King." Under this claim, which was afterward acknowledged by the European powers, Iowa became a dependency of France.

In the meantime La Salle had sent Father Louis Hennepin in 1680 on an expedition from the mouth of the Illinois River to the headwaters of the Mississippi. In April of that year Hennepin reached the Falls of St. Anthony, where the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, now stands, and on April 8, 1689, Nicholas Perrot took formal possession of the upper Mississippi Valley. He built a trading post on a river which he named the St. Nicholas.

#### SETTLEMENT OF LOUISIANA

Before the close of the year 1682, immediately after La Salle reached the mouth of the Mississippi, small trading posts were established by the French at Kaskaskia and Cahokia—the oldest settlements on the river. Soon after the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, France decided to send colonists to Louisiana. Consequently, in 1712 a charter was granted to Antoine Crozat, a wealthy merchant of Paris, giving him exclusive control of the Louisiana trade under certain conditions, one of which was that he should send a given number of colonists to the province within three years. When Crozat's agents arrived in America to carry out his orders they found the Spanish ports closed against his vessels, for Spain, while recognizing France's claims to the province, as based upon the explorations of La Salle, was jealous of French ambitions. At the end of five years, tired of combatting this Spanish opposition and the many other difficulties encountered, Crozat surrendered his charter.

About that time John Law organized the Mississippi Company as a branch of the Bank of France. This company succeeded Crozat in the control of the Louisiana trade and in 1718 Law sent\*some eight hundred colonists to the province. The next year Philippe Renault went up the Mississippi to the Illinois country with about two hundred immigrants, his object being to establish posts and open up a trade with the Indians. Law was a good promoter but was lacking in executive ability to carry out his ideas. In 1720 his whole scheme collapsed, and so disastrous was the failure that his company is known in history as the "Mississippi Bubble." For a few years he tried to reorganize it, but finally on April 10, 1732, he surrendered his charter and Louisiana again became a crown province of France. The white population at that time did not exceed three hundred and fifty.

#### CONFLICTING INTERESTS

In the meantime the English had been gradually pushing the frontier of their civilization farther toward the west. On May 2, 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company was chartered in London, being the first of the great trading associations. Within a short time its trappers and traders were operating among the Indian tribes of the interior, in spite of the French claim to the Mississippi Valley and oblivious to French protests against their trespasses. Its agents were generally English or Scotch, though a few Frenchmen entered the employ of the company. Many of the representatives and employees of the Hudson's Bay Company intermarried with the Indians, which placed them upon a more friendly footing with the natives. A. F. Chamberlain, of Clark University, says: "The method of the great fur companies, which had no dreams of empire over a solid white population, rather favored amalgamation with the Indians as the best means of exploiting the country in a material way. Manitoba, Minnesota and Wisconsin owe much of their early development to the trader and the mixed blood."

What is true of Manitoba, Minnesota and Wisconsin is also true in a lesser degree of every northwestern state. Agents of the North-West, Missouri and American fur companies, as well as the "free trappers and traders," intermarried freely with the Indians. The rivalry between the French and English traders soon brought on a conflict of interests that embroiled their mother countries. In 1712 the English traders incited the Fox Indians to hostilities against the French. Again in 1730 the English and Dutch traders joined in an effort to drive the French out of the country by inciting some of the Indian tribes to acts of hostility. The first open rupture between France and England did not come, however, until 1753, when the

French began building a line of forts from the Great Lakes down the Ohio Valley to prevent the English from extending their settlements west of the Allegheny Mountains. One of these forts was located upon land claimed by Virginia and the Governor of that colony sent George Washington, then only twenty-one years of age, to demand of the French commandant an explanation of this invasion of English territory while the nations were at peace. The reply was insolent and unsatisfactory, and in 1754 Washington, who had been promoted to lieutenant-colonel in the Virginia militia, was sent with a detachment of troops into the disputed territory.

A few years prior to this time a charter had been granted by the British Government to an association called the Ohio Company, including a grant to a large tract of land on the Great Miami River and the right to trade with the Indians. In 1750 the Ohio Company built a fort and established a trading post near the site of the present City of Piqua, Ohio. Regarding this as an encroachment upon French territory, the Canadian authorities sent a detachment of French soldiers and Indians to break up the post. The Ohio Company then began a new post at the head of the Ohio River, where the City of Pittsburgh now stands, but again they were driven out by the French. Part of Washington's instructions in 1754 was "to complete the fort already commenced by the Ohio Company at the forks of the Ohio, and to capture, kill or drive out all who attempted to interfere with the English posts."

#### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

The order given to Washington naturally aroused the indignation of the French people and in May, 1756, that nation formally declared war against Great Britain. The conflict which followed is known in European history as the "Seven Years' War," and in America as the "French and Indian War." This war was concluded by the treaty of Fontainebleau on November 3, 1762, by which France ceded to Great Britain all that part of Louisiana lying east of the Mississippi River, "except the City of New Orleans and the island upon which it is situated." The treaty of Fontainebleau was ratified by the treaty of Paris on February 10, 1763, at which time it was announced that, by an agreement previously made in secret, "the city and island of New Orleans, and all that part of Louisiana lying west of the Mississippi, including the whole country to the headwaters of the great river and west to the Rocky Mountains," was ceded to Spain. Thus ended France's jurisdiction in that part of North America now included in the United States and Iowa became a Spanish possession. Most of the French people living in New Orleans and west of the Mississippi

River remained in the province as Spanish subjects and took an active part in business and public affairs. East of the Mississippi a different feeling prevailed. Many of the French in that region refused to acknowledge allegiance to Great Britain and removed to the west side of the river.

#### CLARK'S CONQUEST OF THE NORTHWEST

During the twelve years following the French and Indian war the British established several military posts in the territory acquired from France by the treaties of Fontainebleau and Paris. The most important of these posts were the ones at Detroit, Michigan; Vincennes, Indiana; and Kaskaskia and Cahokia, Illinois. Then came the Revolutionary war, which again changed the map of Central North America. At the beginning of the Revolution Detroit had about two hundred houses, Vincennes and Kaskaskia about eighty each, and Cahokia about fifty. As soon as it became certain that the English colonies were to be involved in a war with the mother country, a large number of the French who had gone over into the Spanish possessions recrossed the Mississippi and joined the colonists in their struggle for independence.

Virginia then claimed a large expanse of country extending westward and including the British posts in what are now Indiana and Illinois. In 1778 the Legislature of that colony, upon the recommendation of Gov. Patrick Henry, authorized an expedition under Gen. George Rogers Clark for the reduction of the posts upon Virginia territory. The expedition was successful and all the British establishments in the Northwest, except the one at Detroit, fell into the hands of the Americans. One of the most thrilling campaigns of the War for Independence was Clark's conquest of the Northwest.

At first glance it may seem that this expedition of Clark's had little or no effect upon the fate of the country now included in the State of Iowa. But this is another case of "The Seen and the Unseen." It must be borne in mind that the capture of the British posts by General Clark resulted in the western boundary of the United States being fixed at the Mississippi River by the treaty of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war and established the independence of the American colonies. Had it not been for Clark's successful campaign, the territory of the United States would in all probability have been confined to the thirteen original colonies, in which case the history of the great Mississippi Valley can only be conjectured. But by extending the limits of the new republic westward to the great Father of Waters the way was opened for the acquisition of the country west of that river, and in time Iowa became one of the sovereign states of the American Union.

## NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI

Soon after the independence of the United States was established the new nation became involved in a controversy with the Spanish authorities of Louisiana over the free navigation of the Mississippi River. The final settlement of this controversy had a direct and important influence upon that part of the country now comprising the State of Iowa. By the treaty of September 3, 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war, the western boundary of the United States was fixed at the Mississippi, though the lower course of that river passed through Spanish territory. Having possession of the outlet, the Spanish assumed control of the navigation of the entire river. Posts were established at various places along the stream and every boat descending was compelled to land at such posts and submit to arbitrary revenue charges. As the Mississippi constituted the natural outlet for a large part of the commerce of the United States, it was a humiliation to the American citizen to see it controlled by a foreign power. Moreover, the system of revenue duties inaugurated by the Spanish authorities materially decreased the profits of the American trader. After much discussion and diplomatic correspondence, the question was finally settled, temporarily at least, by the treaty of Madrid, which was concluded on October 27, 1795. One article of the treaty provided that "The Mississippi River, from its source to the Gulf, for its entire width, shall be free to American trade and commerce, and the people of the United States shall be permitted, for three years, to use the port of New Orleans as a port of deposit, without payment of duty."

During the three years that the Americans were allowed the free use of the port of New Orleans the commerce of the states bordering on the Mississippi River showed a marked increase in volume. At the expiration of that period Spain manifested a disposition to return to the old order and the free navigation of the river again became a subject of vital importance to the people of the United States. President Adams and his cabinet pointed out to the Spanish officials that the language of the treaty of Madrid was such that the three years' provision applied only to the use of the port of New Orleans, and not to the navigation of the river. While the question was under discussion the secret treaty of San Ildefonso, between France and Spain, was concluded on October 1, 1800, by which Spain agreed to cede Louisiana back to France, under certain conditions. The reession of Louisiana to France changed the whole situation, inasmuch as the United States must now negotiate with France for the free navigation of the Mississippi.

## THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

The French Revolution brought into prominence two of the most noted characters in European history—Napoleon and Talleyrand. These two great Frenchmen, feeling deeply the loss of their country's American possessions, soon began planning for the rebuilding of a colonial empire, one of the chief features of which was the recovery of Louisiana. At that time Don Carlos IV was King of Spain, but Channing says: "The actual rulers in Spain were Dona Maria Luisa de Parma, his queen, and Don Manuel Godoy, el Principe de la Paz, which title writers of English habitually translate 'Prince of Peace.' "

Godoy, who had been influential in the formation and adoption of the treaty of Madrid in 1795, which gave the United States the free navigation of the Mississippi, knew that he was not liked by Napoleon and Talleyrand. Therefore, when they began overtures for the transfer of Louisiana back to France, he resigned from the Spanish ministry, leaving the king without his most efficient adviser. In exchange for Louisiana Napoleon and Talleyrand offered an Italian kingdom of at least one million inhabitants for the Duke de Parma, prince presumptive, who was at once son-in-law and nephew of the ruling monarchs. The State of Tuscany was selected and its transfer to Spain was the condition imposed by the secret treaty of San Ildefonso.

The secret treaty was confirmed by the treaty of Madrid (March 21, 1801), a copy of which was sent to President Jefferson by Rufus King, then the United States minister to England. It reached the White House on May 26, 1801. In August following, Robert R. Livingston went to France as United States minister and immediately upon his arrival asked Talleyrand, then the French prime minister, if the province of Louisiana had been ceded to France. Talleyrand replied in the negative, and in one sense of the word he was justified in doing so, as the treaty of Madrid was not signed by the King of Spain until in October, 1802. When President Jefferson received the copy of the treaty sent by Mr. King, he wrote to James Monroe: "There is considerable reason to apprehend that Spain cedes Louisiana and the Floridas to France. To my mind this policy is very unwise for both France and Spain, and very ominous to us."

During the next twelve months President Jefferson and his cabinet officers were kept in a state of suspense as to the status of Louisiana and little progress was made toward a satisfactory adjustment of the navigation matter. On April 18, 1802, the President wrote to Mr. Livingston at Paris, advising him that the American people were anxiously watching France's movements with regard to Louisiana. In his letter he summed up the situation as follows: 1. The natural

feeling of the American people toward France was one of friendship. 2. Whatever nation possessed New Orleans and controlled the lower reaches of the river became the natural enemy of American progress, and therefore of the American people. 3. Spain was then well disposed toward the United States and as long as she remained in possession of New Orleans the people of this country would be satisfied with conditions. 4. On the other hand, France possessed an energy and restlessness of character which would be the cause of eternal friction between that country and the United States. In concluding his letter he said:

“The day that France takes possession of New Orleans fixes the sentence which is to restrain her forever within her low water mark. It seals the union of two nations who in conjunction can maintain exclusive [control] of the ocean. From that moment we must marry ourselves to the British fleet and nation. The first cannon which shall be fired in Europe will be the signal for tearing up any settlement she may have made, and for holding the two continents of America in sequestration for the common purpose of the united British and American nations.”

Jefferson did not desire an alliance with England, but was firm in the conviction that French possession of Louisiana would force the United States to adopt such a course. In November, 1802, news reached Washington that the Spanish authorities at New Orleans had suddenly and without warning withdrawn the right of deposit at that port. The country—particularly in the new settlements in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys—was ablaze with indignation. The Federalists, Jefferson’s political opponents, tried to force the administration into some policy that would give them a political advantage, but their efforts were futile. Says Channing: “Never in all his long and varied career did Jefferson’s foxlike discretion stand him in better stead. Instead of following public clamor, he calmly formulated a policy and carried it through to a most successful termination.”

In his message to Congress at the opening of the session in 1802, the President merely stated that the change in ownership of Louisiana would necessarily make a change in our foreign relations, but did not intimate what the nature of that change was to be. On January 7, 1803, the lower house of Congress, acting upon the President’s recommendation, adopted the following resolution: “Resolved, That it is the unalterable determination of the United States to maintain the boundaries and rights of navigation and commerce through the Mississippi River, as established by existing treaties.”

On the 13th of the same month Mr. Jefferson wrote to James Monroe that the Federalists were trying to force the United States into war

in order to get into power. About the same time he wrote to Mr. Livingston that if France considered Louisiana indispensable to her interests, she might still be willing to cede to the United States the island of Orleans and the Floridas. Or if not willing to cede the island, she might be induced to grant the right of deposit at New Orleans and the free navigation of the Mississippi, as it had previously been under the Spanish regime, and directed him to open negotiations with that end in view. A few days after writing this letter, thinking the cession could probably be more easily accomplished by sending an emissary direct from the United States for that purpose, he appointed James Monroe as minister plenipotentiary, so coöperate with Minister Livingston. The senate promptly confirmed Mr. Monroe's appointment and Congress placed at his disposal the sum of \$2,000,000 to be used by him and Mr. Livingston to pay for the island.

It may be well to note, in this connection, that the ultimate success of Livingston and Monroe was no doubt furthered by a letter written about this time by Pichon, the French minister to the United States, to Talleyrand, in which he advised the French prime minister that the people of the United States were thoroughly aroused over the suspension of the right of deposit, and that the administration might be forced by public opinion into an alliance with Great Britain. War between England and France had just been renewed and Napoleon, realizing the superior strength of the British navy, saw that it would be a difficult undertaking to hold Louisiana if an alliance should be made between England and the United States. He had a force of troops under General Victor ready to send to New Orleans, but learned that an English fleet was lying in wait for Victor's departure and countermanded the order.

In the meantime Livingston had opened negotiations for the cession of the island of Orleans and West Florida, believing the Floridas were included in the treaty of San Ildefonso. On April 11, 1803, Napoleon placed the entire matter of the cession in the hands of the Marquis de Marbois, minister of the French treasury, and the same day Talleyrand startled Livingston by asking if the United States would not like to own the entire Province of Louisiana. Livingston gave a negative reply, but Talleyrand insisted that Louisiana would be worth nothing to France without the city and island of New Orleans and asked the American minister to make an offer for the whole province. Another conference was held the next morning, and that afternoon Mr. Monroe arrived in Paris. That night the two American envoys spent several hours in consultation, the result of which was that Mr. Livingston was selected to conduct the negotiations.

Several days were then spent in discussing the matter, Marbois

at first asking 125,000,000 francs (\$25,000,000) for the whole province, though it afterward dropped out that Napoleon had directed him to accept 50,000,000 francs, provided a better price could not be obtained. The price finally agreed upon was 80,000,000 francs, three-fourths of that amount to go directly to the French treasury and the remainder to be used in settling claims of American citizens against the French Government. The next step was to embody the terms in a formal treaty. As this treaty gave to the United States a territory of nearly nine hundred thousand square miles, in which was situated the present State of Iowa, it is here given in full. It is known as the

## TREATY OF PARIS

“The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the French people, desiring to remove all sources of misunderstanding relative to objects of discussion mentioned in the second and fifth articles of the convention of the 8th Vendemaire, an 9 (30 September, 1800), relative to the rights claimed by the United States, in virtue of the treaty concluded at Madrid, the 27th of October, 1795, between his Catholic Majesty and the said United States, and willing to strengthen the union and friendship which at the time of said convention was happily reestablished between the two nations, have respectfully named their plenipotentiaries, to wit: The President of the United States of America, by and with the advice of the senate of the said states, Robert R. Livingston, minister plenipotentiary of the United States, and James Monroe, minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary of the said states, near the Government of the French Republic; and the First Consul, in the name of the French people, the French citizen, Barbe Marbois, minister of the public treasury, who, after having exchanged their full powers, have agreed to the following articles:

Article I—Whereas, by the article the third of the treaty concluded at St. Ildefonso, the 9th Vendemaire an 9 (October 1, 1800), between the First Consul of the French Republic and his Catholic Majesty, it was agreed as follows: ‘His Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to retrocede to the French Republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations herein relative to his royal highness, the Duke of Parma, the colony or province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it; and such as it should be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other states,’ and

“Whereas, in pursuance of the treaty, particularly of the third

article, the French Republic has an incontestable title to the domain and possession of said territory; the First Consul of the French Republic, desiring to give to the United States a strong proof of his friendship, doth hereby cede to the United States, in the name of the French Republic, forever, in full sovereignty, the said territory, with all its rights and appurtenances, as fully and in the same manner as they have been acquired by the French Republic in virtue of the above mentioned treaty, concluded with his Catholic Majesty.

“Article II—In the cession made by the preceding article, are included the adjacent islands belonging to Louisiana, all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks and other edifices which are not private property. The archives, papers and documents relative to the domain and sovereignty of Louisiana and its dependencies, will be left in the possession of the commissioners of the United States, and copies will be afterward given in due form to the magistrates and municipal officers of such of the said papers and documents as may be necessary to them.

“Article III—The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Federal Constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States; and in the meantime they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the religion which they profess.

“Article IV—There shall be sent by the Government of France a commissary to Louisiana, to the end that he do every act necessary, as well to receive from the officers of his Catholic Majesty the said country and its dependencies in the name of the French Republic, if it has not already been done, and to transmit it in the name of the French Republic to the commissary or agent of the United States.

“Article V—Immediately after the ratification of the present treaty by the President of the United States, and in case that of the First Consul shall have been previously obtained, the commissary of the French Republic shall remit all the military posts of New Orleans and other posts of the ceded territory, to the commissary or commissaries named by the President of the United States to take possession; the troops, whether of France or Spain, who may be there, shall cease to occupy any military post from the time of taking possession, and shall be embarked as soon as possible, in the course of three months after the ratification of this treaty.

“Article VI—The United States promises to execute such treaties and articles as may have been agreed between Spain and the tribes and nations of Indians, until by mutual consent of the United States

and the said tribes or nations, other suitable articles shall have been agreed upon.

“Article VII—As it is reciprocally advantageous to the commerce of France and the United States to encourage the communication of both nations, for a limited time, in the country ceded by the present treaty, until general arrangements relative to the commerce of both nations may be agreed upon, it has been agreed between the contracting parties, that the French ships coming directly from France or any of her colonies, loaded only with the produce of France or her said colonies, and the ships of Spain coming directly from Spain or any of her colonies, loaded only with the produce or manufactures of Spain or her colonies, shall be admitted during the space of twelve years in the ports of New Orleans, and all other ports of entry within the ceded territory, in the same manner as the ships of the United States coming directly from France or Spain, or any of their colonies, without being subject to any other or greater duty on merchandise, or other or greater tonnage than those paid by the citizens of the United States.

“During the space of time above mentioned, no other nation shall have a right to the same privileges in the ports of the ceded territory; the twelve years shall commence three months after the exchange of ratifications, if it shall take place in France, or three months after it shall have been notified at Paris to the French Government, if it shall take place in the United States; it is, however, well understood, that the object of this article is to favor the manufactures, commerce, freight and navigation of France and Spain, so far as relates to the importations that the French and Spanish shall make into the ports of the United States, without in any sort affecting the regulations that the United States may make concerning the exportation of the produce and merchandise of the United States, or any right they may have to make such regulations.

“Article VIII—In future, and forever after the expiration of the twelve years, the ships of France shall be treated upon the footing of the most favored nations in the ports above mentioned.

“Article IX—The particular convention signed this day by the respective ministers, having for its object to provide for the payment of debts due to the citizens of the United States by the French Republic prior to the 30th day of September, 1800 (8th Vendemaire, 9), is approved and to have its execution in the same manner as if it had been inserted in the present treaty, and it shall be ratified in the same form and at the same time, so that the one shall not be ratified distinct from the other.

“Another particular convention signed at the same time as the present treaty, relative to a definite rule between the contracting

parties, is in like manner approved and will be ratified in the same form and at the same time, and jointly.

“Article X—The present treaty shall be ratified in good and due form, and the ratification shall be exchanged in the space of six months after the date of the signatures of the ministers plenipotentiary, or sooner if possible. In faith whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed these articles in the French and English languages, declaring, nevertheless, that the present treaty was originally agreed to in the French language; and have thereunto set their seals.

“Done at Paris, the tenth day of Floreal, in the eleventh year of the French Republic, and the 30th of April, 1803.

“ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON (L. S.)  
“JAMES MONROE (L. S.)  
“BARBE MARBOIS (L. S.)”

The original cost of the entire territory ceded by the treaty of Paris was about three cents per acre, but McMaster says: “Up to June, 1880, the total cost of Louisiana was \$27,267,621.” Out of the country acquired by the treaty have been erected the following states: Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, about one-third of Colorado, nearly all of Montana, three-fourths of Wyoming, and Oklahoma. In the purchase of this vast region, Livingston and Monroe exceeded their authority and for a time President Jefferson was inclined to the belief that an amendment to the Federal Constitution—an “act of indemnity” he called it—would be necessary to make the transaction legal. But when he saw the general acquiescence of the people he abandoned the idea. In his message to Congress on October 17, 1803, he said:

“The enlightened Government of France saw, with just discernment, the importance to both nations of such liberal arrangement as might best and permanently promote the peace, interests and friendship of both; and the property and sovereignty of all Louisiana, which had been restored to them, have, on certain conditions, been transferred to the United States by instruments bearing the date of 30th of April last. When these shall have received the constitutional sanction of the senate, they will without delay be communicated to the representatives for the exercise of their functions, as to those conditions which are within the powers vested in the constitution by Congress.”

Three days after the delivery of this message, the treaty was ratified by the senate. It was ratified by the house of representatives on October 25, 1803. Mr. Jefferson appointed William C. C. Claiborne, governor of Mississippi, and Gen. James Wilkinson commissioners,

in accordance with Article IV of the treaty, to receive the province from Pierre Laussat, the French commissary. The transfer was formally made and the Stars and Stripes were raised at New Orleans on December 20, 1803. Thus the domain of the United States were extended westward to the summit of the Rocky Mountains and Iowa became a part of the territory of the American Republic.

#### EXPLORING THE NEW PURCHASE

Not long after the cession of Louisiana to the United States, President Jefferson began making plans to send an expedition up the Missouri River to discover its sources, and to ascertain whether a water route to the Pacific coast was practicable. As it was late in the year 1803 before the treaty of Paris was ratified, the expedition was postponed until the following spring. The President selected as leaders of this expedition Capts. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark of the regular army. Both were natives of Virginia and the latter was a brother of Gen. George Rogers Clark. On May 14, 1804, they left the mouth of the Missouri River and ascended that stream. Their company consisted of fourteen regular soldiers, nine young men from Kentucky, two French voyageurs or boatmen, an Indian interpreter, a hunter and a negro servant belonging to Captain Clark. Their main vessel was a keel-boat fifty-five feet long, with twenty-two oars and drawing three feet of water. It had a cabin, in which were kept the most valuable articles, and a large square sail to be used when the wind was favorable. They also had two pirogues, fitted with six and seven oars respectively. Two horses were led along on the bank, to be used in hunting game.

On July 22nd the expedition came to "a high and shaded situation" on the east side of the river, where they established a camp, "intending to make the requisite observations, and to send for the neighboring tribes for the purpose of making known to them the recent change in government and the wish of the United States to cultivate their friendship." The best authorities agree in locating this camp near the line between Mills and Pottawattomie counties, in Iowa. On September 8, 1806, they occupied this camp again on their return trip.

Lewis and Clark landed at several places in Iowa, but found only a few Indians on the east side of the river. The names they gave to some of the streams that empty into the Missouri still remain.

On August 9, 1805, Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike left St. Louis with a sergeant, two corporals and seventeen privates, to explore the upper Mississippi River. In the latter part of that month he held a council

with the Indians near the present town of Montrose, in Lee County, Iowa, which was probably the first council ever held on Iowa soil between a representative of the United States and the natives. On that occasion Pike addressed the assembled chiefs as follows: "Your great father, the President of the United States, in his desire to become better acquainted with the condition and wants of the different nations of red people in our newly acquired territory of Louisiana, has ordered the general to send a number of warriors in various directions to take our red brothers by the hand and make such inquiries as will give your great father the information required."

No attempt was made to conclude a treaty, but at the close of the council Pike distributed among the Indians knives, tobacco and trinkets of various kinds. Among the Indians who were present at this council were some who had signed the treaty at St. Louis the preceding November. Lieutenant Pike seems to have been the first American with whom chief Black Hawk came in close contact. Some years later the old chief gave the following account of the lieutenant's visit to the Sac and Fox village on the Rock River:

"A boat came up the river with a young chief and a small party of soldiers. We heard of them soon after they passed Salt River. Some of our young braves watched them every day, to see what sort of people were on board. The boat at last arrived at Rock River and the young chief came on shore with his interpreter, made a speech and gave us some presents. We in turn gave them meat and such other provisions as we could spare. We were well pleased with the young chief. He gave us good advice and said our American father would treat us well."

The expeditions of Lewis and Clark and Lieutenant Pike touched only the borders of Iowa. The first authentic account of the region now comprising Northwestern Iowa was that contained in the official report of J. N. Nicollet, who was appointed by the secretary of war on April 7, 1838, to make a map of the hydrographic basin of the upper Mississippi River. Associated with Nicollet in this work was John C. Fremont, then a young engineer in the service of the United States, but who afterward won fame as the "Pathfinder of the Rocky Mountains," the first candidate of the republican party for the presidency, and as a general in the Union army during the Civil war.

#### ACQUISITION OF THE INDIAN LANDS

Although the treaty of September 3, 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war, extended the territory of the United States westward to the Mississippi; and the treaty of Paris (April 30, 1803), sold the Province of Louisiana to the United States, thereby extending the west-

ern boundary to the Rocky Mountains, neither treaty had the power to extinguish the Indian title to the lands. That problem was left to the Federal Government for solution.

Article IX of the "Articles of Confederation"—the first organic law of the American Republic—gave Congress "the sole and exclusive right and power to regulate the trade with, and manage the affairs of the Indians." Under the authority conferred by this article, Congress issued the order of September 22, 1783, forbidding all persons to settle upon the Indian domain. The Articles of Confederation were superseded by the Constitution, which likewise gave to Congress the exclusive power to regulate Indian affairs. By the act of March 1, 1793, Congress declared: "That no purchase or grant of lands, or any claim or title thereto, from any Indians, or nation or tribe of Indians, within the bounds of the United States, shall be of any validity, in law or equity, unless the same be made by a treaty or convention entered into pursuant to the Constitution."

The first treaties between the United States and the Indian tribes were merely agreements of peace and friendship, but as the white population increased treaties for the acquisition of lands were negotiated by the Government and the continuation of this policy gradually crowded the red man farther and farther westward before the advance of civilization.

#### TREATY OF 1804

At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century the white man was already looking with longing eyes upon the broad prairies of Illinois, where lived the Sacs and Foxes and some other tribes. When the Louisiana Purchase was made a clamor arose for the removal of the Indians in Illinois to the new domain west of the Mississippi. Gen. William H. Harrison, then governor of the Indiana Territory, negotiated a treaty at St. Louis on November 4, 1804 by which the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States their lands east of the Mississippi, but retained the privilege of dwelling thereon until the lands were actually sold to white settlers, when they were to remove to the west side of the river. At that time it was the custom of the confederated tribes to give instructions to their chiefs or delegates to a treaty convention as to what course should be pursued, or, in the absence of such instructions, afterward confirm the action of the delegates by a vote in council.

One faction of the Sacs and Foxes claimed that the delegates to St. Louis had no instructions to sell the lands east of the river, and a considerable number, under the leadership of Black Hawk, refused to confirm the sale. The opposition to the St. Louis treaty was largely

responsible for the alliance of Black Hawk and his band with the British in the War of 1812. After that war treaties of peace were made with several of the tribes that had fought against the United States. Black Hawk and his followers were the last to enter into such a treaty. On May 13, 1816, at St. Louis, a number of Sac and Fox chiefs and head men were induced to sign a treaty confirming that of 1804. One of the twenty-two chiefs who then "touched the goose quill" was Black Hawk, who, although he never denied signing the treaty, afterward repudiated the agreement.

It required considerable diplomacy on the part of the United States to induce Black Hawk and his followers to remove to the west side of the Mississippi, but in 1830 they crossed over into Iowa "under protest." Not satisfied with his new home, he recrossed the river in the spring of 1831, with a number of his braves and their families, and took possession of their former cornfields on the Rock River. General Gaines was sent with a force of troops to expel the Indians and Black Hawk was solemnly admonished not to repeat the offense. Despite the warning, the old chief, influenced by a "bad medicine man" named Wa-bo-bie-shiek, again crossed over into Illinois in 1832. Again troops were sent against him and the conflict which followed is known as the "Black Hawk war," which ended in the defeat of the Indians in the battle of Bad Axe, August 2, 1832. Black Hawk and his two sons were captured and held for some time as prisoners of war.

#### THE NEUTRAL GROUND

Going back a few years, it is necessary to notice a treaty which, though no lands were ceded by it for white settlement, played a conspicuous part in the subsequent history of Iowa. About 1825 the Sioux on the north and the Sacs and Foxes on the south became involved in a dispute over the limits of their respective hunting grounds and the United States undertook to settle the controversy. William Clark and Lewis Cass were appointed commissioners to hold a council and endeavor to fix a line that would define the boundaries of the different tribes. The council was held at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, August 19, 1825, the chiefs of the Sacs and Foxes, Sioux, Winnebago, Chippewa, Ottawa, Potawatomi, and some other minor tribes taking part. A boundary line was finally agreed upon as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of the upper Iowa River, on the west bank of the Mississippi and ascending said Iowa River to its west fork; thence up said fork to its source; then crossing the fork of the Red Cedar River in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines River; thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet

(Big Sioux) River, and down that stream to its junction with the Missouri River."

South of this line was to be the hunting grounds of the Sacs and Foxes, while the country north of it was to be the common property of the other tribes that agreed to the treaty. It soon became apparent that the imaginary line thus established was not sufficient to keep the contending tribes from trespassing upon each other's domain. Another council was therefore called to meet at Prairie du Chien on July 15, 1830. In the treaty negotiated at this council the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a strip of land twenty miles wide along the northern border of their hunting grounds, extending from the Mississippi to the Des Moines, and immediately north of and adjoining this strip the northern tribes ceded a tract twenty miles wide between the same rivers. The forty-mile strip thus formed was known as the "Neutral Ground," which included a portion of the present County of Winnebago. It remained neutral until 1841, when it was given to the Winnebago Indians for a reservation. A few years later that tribe ceded it to the United States.

#### TREATY OF 1830

At the council of July 15, 1830, which established the "Neutral Ground," the chiefs and head men of the Sac and Fox confederacy entered into a treaty with the representatives of the United States, in which the allied tribes ceded to the United States a tract of land described as follows:

"Beginning at the upper fork of the Demoine River and passing the sources of the Little Sioux and Floyd rivers to the fork of the first creek which falls into the Big Sioux or Calumet River on the east side; thence down said creek and the Calumet River to the Missouri River; thence down said Missouri River to the Missouri State line above the Kansas River; thence along said line from the northwest corner of the state to the highlands between the waters falling into the Missouri and Demoine rivers, passing to said highlands along the dividing ridge between the forks of the Grand River; thence along said highlands or ridge dividing the waters of the Missouri from those of the Demoine to a point opposite the source of the Boyer River, and thence in a direct line to the upper fork of the Demoine, the place of beginning."

Part of the land thus ceded is in Minnesota. That portion in Iowa is bounded on the west by the Missouri River; on the south by the line separating Iowa and Missouri; on the east by a line passing through or near the towns of Estherville and Emmetsburg until it

struck the west fork of the Des Moines River about ten miles above Fort Dodge. The line along the highlands or watershed between the Des Moines and Missouri passed about ten miles west of Carroll, about half-way between Audubon and Guthrie Center, just east of Greenfield, west of Afton and through the town of Mount Ayr.

The lands so ceded were not opened to white settlement, the treaty expressly stipulating that "The lands ceded and relinquished by this treaty are to be assigned and allotted under the direction of the President of the United States to the tribes now living thereon, or to such other tribes as the President may locate thereon for hunting and other purposes."

#### TREATY OF 1832

While Black Hawk and his two sons were held as prisoners of war, the United States negotiated the treaty of September 21, 1832, with the Sac and Fox chiefs under the leadership of Keokuk, in which those tribes ceded to the United States "all lands to which said tribes have any title or claim included within the following boundaries, to wit:

"Beginning on the Mississippi River at the point where the Sac and Fox northern boundary line, as established by Article 2 of the treaty of July 15, 1830, strikes said river; thence up said boundary line to a point fifty miles from the Mississippi, measured on said line; thence in a right line to the nearest point on the Red Cedar of Ioway, forty miles from the Mississippi; thence in a right line to a point in the northern boundary of the State of Missouri, fifty miles, measured on said line, from the Mississippi River; thence by the last mentioned boundary to the Mississippi River, and by the western shore of said river to the place of beginning."

The ceded territory obtained by this treaty embraces about six million acres. It was taken by the United States as an indemnity for the expenses of the Black Hawk war, and for that reason it has been called the "Black Hawk Purchase." It included the present counties of Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Henry, Jackson, Jones, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine and Scott, and portions of Buchanan, Clayton, Fayette, Jefferson, Johnson, Linn, Van Buren and Washington. The Black Hawk Purchase was the first Iowa land obtained from the Indians for white settlement.

#### TREATY OF 1842

The irregular western boundary of the Black Hawk Purchase soon led to disputes between the Indians and the settlers. To adjust these differences of opinion some of the Sac and Fox chiefs were persuaded

to visit Washington, where on October 21, 1837, they ceded to the United States an additional tract of 1,250,000 acres for the purpose of straightening the western boundary. Upon making the survey it was discovered that the ceded territory was not enough to make a straight line, and again the Indians accused the white settlers of encroaching upon their lands. Negotiations were therefore commenced for additional land to straighten the boundary, and some of the wiser chiefs saw that it was only a question of time until the Indians would have to relinquish all their Iowa lands to the white men. Keokuk, Wapello and Poweshiek especially advised a treaty peaceably ceding their lands to the United States, rather than to wait until they should be taken by force. Through their influence a council was called to meet at the Sac and Fox agency (now Agency City) in what is now Wapello County. John Chambers, then governor of Iowa Territory, was appointed commissioner on behalf of the United States to negotiate the treaty.

The council was held in a large tent set up for the purpose near the agency. Governor Chambers, dressed in the uniform of an army officer, made a short speech stating the object for which the council had been called. Keokuk, clad in all his native finery and bedecked with ornaments, responded. After that there was "much talk," as almost every chief present had something to say. On October 11, 1842, a treaty was concluded by which the allied tribes agreed to cede all their remaining lands in Iowa, but reserved the right to occupy for three years from the date of signing the treaty "all that part of the land above ceded which lies west of a line running due north and south from the Painted or Red Rocks on the White Breast fork of the Des Moines River, which rocks will be found about eight miles in a straight line from the junction of the White Breast and Des Moines."

The red sandstone cliffs, called by the Indians the Painted Rocks, are situated on the Des Moines River in the northwestern part of Marion County, near the town called Red Rock. The line described in the treaty forms the boundary between Appanoose and Wayne counties, on the southern border of the state, and passes thence northward between Lucas and Monroe, through Marion, Jasper, Marshall and Hardin counties to the northern limit of the cession. East of this line the land was opened to settlement on May 1, 1843, and west of it on October 11, 1845.

#### TREATY OF TRAVERSE DES SIOUX

By the treaties concluded at the Indian agency on the Missouri River on June 5 and 17, 1846, the Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa tribes relinquished their claims to "all lands to which they have claim of

any kind whatsoever, and especially the tracts or parcels of land ceded to them by the treaty of Chicago, and subsequent thereto, and now in whole or in part possessed by their people, lying and being north and east of the Missouri River and embraced in the limits of the Territory of Iowa."

With the conclusion of those two treaties all that portion of the State of Iowa south of the country claimed by the Sioux became the property of the white man. It remained, however, for the Government to extinguish the Sioux title to Northwestern Iowa before the pale-face could come into full possession. This was done by the treaty of Traverse des Sioux on July 23, 1851, when the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands ceded to the United States "All their lands in the State of Iowa, and also all their lands in the Territory of Minnesota lying east of the following line, to wit: Beginning at the junction of the Buffalo River with the Red River of the North; thence along the western bank of the said Red River of the North to the mouth of the Sioux Wood River; thence along the western bank of the said Sioux Wood River to Lake Traverse; thence along the western shore of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the junction of Kampesa Lake with the Tchan-kas-ka-da-ta or Sioux River; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the State of Iowa, including all the islands and said rivers and lake."

The treaty of Traverse des Sioux was agreed to by the Mdewakanton band in a treaty concluded at Mendota, Minnesota, on August 5, 1851, and by the Wahpekute band a little later. Thus the great State of Iowa became the complete and undisputed domain of the white man. The period of preparation for a civilized population—a period which began more than two centuries before—was now completed and the hunting grounds of the savage tribes became the cultivated fields of the Caucasian. The Indian trail has been broadened into the highway or the railroad. Instead of the howl of the wolf and the war-whoop of the red man is heard the lowing of kine and the shriek of factory whistles. Halls of legislation have supplanted the tribal council; modern residences occupy the sites of Indian tepees; news is borne by telegraph or telephone instead of signal fires on the hilltops, and the church spire rises where once stood the totem pole as an object of veneration; Indian villages have disappeared and in their places have come cities with paved streets, electric lights, stately school buildings, public libraries, newspapers, and all the evidences of modern progress. And all this change has come about within the memory of persons yet living. To tell the story of these years of progress and development is the province of the subsequent chapters of this history.

## PART TWO

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### WINNEBAGO COUNTY

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#### CHAPTER I. EARLY SETTLEMENT

PROGRESS OF WHITE SETTLEMENTS IN IOWA—FIRST COUNTIES—WINNEBAGO  
ORIGINALLY A PART OF DUBUQUE COUNTY—THE FIRST SETTLERS IN WIN-  
NEBAGO—SOME FIRST THINGS—PIONEER LIFE AND CUSTOMS—SWAPPING  
WORK—AMUSEMENTS AND PASTIMES.

As stated in a former chapter, the first white men to behold the State of Iowa, or to set foot upon her soil, were Marquette and Joliet, who visited some Indian villages in what is now Lee County in the summer of 1673. The first white settlement within the present borders of the state was founded by Julien Dubuque in 1788, where the city bearing his name now stands. Eight years later Louis Houore Tesson received from the Spanish authorities of Louisiana a grant of land at the head of the Des Moines Rapids of the Mississippi river, where the Town of Montrose in Lee County is now located. The titles of Dubuque and Tesson were afterward confirmed by the United States Government, but with these exceptions no settlement was legally made in Iowa prior to June 1, 1833, when the title to the "Black Hawk Purchase" became fully vested in the United States.

A few French traders had established posts along the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century; Fort Madison was built in 1808 by order of the Government, where the city of that name is now situated; a trading house was built and a small settlement was made upon the site of the present City of Keokuk in the early '20s, and Burlington was founded in the fall of 1832, soon after the lands of the Black Hawk Purchase were ceded to the United States. But, with the possible exception of Fort Madison and the settlement at Dubuque, none of these settlements had the sanction of the United States, and from a legal view-point the occupants were trespassers upon the Indian lands.

On that first day of June, 1833, when the Black Hawk Purchase was thrown open to white settlement, hundreds were waiting on the east side of the Mississippi, and they lost no time in crossing over and selecting claims. During the next ten years the settlements were extended rapidly westward and in 1843 Fort Des Moines was built upon the site now occupied by the city of that name. A census taken in 1844 showed the population of Iowa to be 75,150.

The first counties—Dubuque and Des Moines—were authorized by an act of the Michigan Legislature in September, 1834. The former included all that portion of the present State of Iowa lying north of a line drawn due westward from the foot of Rock Island, and the latter embraced all that part of the state lying south of the same line. The present County of Winnebago was therefore originally a part of Dubuque County. In many of the older counties of the state settlements were made before the boundaries of the county were defined or a name adopted. Not so with Winnebago. When the state was admitted into the Union in December, 1846, there were but few organized counties west of the Red Rock line established by the treaty of October 11, 1842.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS

As early as 1853 Leander Farlow, with a few companions, came into Winnebago County as a hunter and trapper, though no attempt was made to found a permanent settlement. The next year came Philip Tennis on the same kind of a mission. The reports of the country he carried back to Cerro Gordo County induced Thomas Bearse to bring his family to Winnebago with a view to making it his home. He settled upon a tract of land belonging to John L. McMillan, of Mason City, early in 1855 and was doubtless the first actual settler. However, Gue, in his History of Iowa, gives that credit to George W. Thomas, who came early in 1855, "took a claim and opened a farm at Rice Lake." Thomas Bearse located on the east side of Lime creek, about three-quarters of a mile east of where Forest City now stands and remained in the county until about 1867, when he removed to Hancock county. In 1882 he returned to Winnebago and settled in Norway Township.

William Gilbert was another settler in the spring of 1855. He settled in the southwest corner of what is now Mount Valley Township and lived there until about 1862 or 1863, when he went to Dakota. In the fall of 1855 came John Maben, James C. Bonar and John Gilchrist, with their families, and all settled in the southeastern part of the county. Mr. Maben was at one time the sheriff of Winnebago County. Subsequently he removed to Hancock County, where he was



DR. W. H. JONES



ROBERT CLARK



DAVID SECOR

Born in Putnam County, New York,  
January 6, 1836. Came to Forest  
City in 1860. Died Septem-  
ber 14, 1907.



REV. J. D. MASON

The first Congregational minister to  
settle in Forest City.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY PIONEERS



lected to the office of county treasurer. Mr. Bonar also removed to Hancock County and lived there for a few years, when he went to Minnesota. In 1883 he went to Kansas and died there some years later. Mr. Gilehrist was an Indianan and after a residence in Winnebago of about three years he returned to his native state.

The year 1856 saw quite an addition to the population of Winnebago County. Among those who came in that year were Edward and Henry Allen, Thomas Andrews, John S. Blowers, Josiah T. Bray, Francis M. and John Byford, Robert Clark, Allen T. Cole, James L. Hitt, John Jeffords, John Lamm, Daniel Martin, Archibald Murray, Ira Plummer, Robert Stephens, Philip and Samuel Tennis.

The Allen brothers settled near Forest City, but they remained in the county only a short time. John S. Blowers settled near the center of what is now Forest Township, where he lived for about eighteen months, when he removed to Forest City. He was the first sheriff of Winnebago County and his son, George R. Blowers, was the first white child born in Winnebago County. Josiah T. Bray, also located in Forest Township, where he lived for about three years. He then turned over his farm to his father, Darius Bray, and went to Colorado.

Robert Clark located a claim where Forest City now stands and laid out the town soon after his arrival. He was the first county judge of Winnebago County and while serving in that capacity made the contract for the erection of a courthouse, which was never built. He was also the first postmaster in the county and was one of the active and enterprising business men of Forest City.

Allen T. Cole was a native of Franklin County, Ohio, where he was born in December, 1833. When he was five years old his parents removed to Adams County, Indiana, where he received a good common school education. In July, 1855, he came to Iowa, first settling in Cerro Gordo County, and in March, 1856, came to Winnebago. In 1862 he was elected one of the county supervisors, but in August of that year he enlisted as a private in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, and served until July 7, 1865, when he was mustered out at Fort Tyler, Texas, being at the time a paroled prisoner. Mr. Cole was a blacksmith by trade and was one of the early members of the Masonic Lodge at Forest City.

The two Byfords left the county after a short stay—one of them under a cloud. He had formed a partnership with Mr. Blowers and was engaged in the mercantile business; collected all the cash he could and decamped, leaving his partner "to hold the sack." James L. Hitt went to Nebraska after a few years, and John Lamm went to Missouri a few years after the close of the Civil War. John Jeffords and Philip Tennis both laid claim to the same tract of land in Forest Township.

The contest was settled by arbitrators in favor of Mr. Jeffords and Mr. Tennis then located in the northern part of the county. Robert Stephens returned to his native State of Indiana in 1858.

Other early settlers were: Matthew Heath, John M. Furney, G. W. Campbell and Philip A. Pulver, all of whom came in 1856 and settled in or near Forest City. Heath went back to Indiana after about a year; Furney went south in search of a more congenial climate; Campbell left after a residence of about one year, and Pulver left the county in 1859. Charles D. Smith, William Porter and John Anderson all settled near the present Town of Lake Mills in the latter part of 1856.

Avery Baker, the Beebe family, Darius Bray, William Lackore, Charles and David Lutz, Martin Bumgardner and a few others came in the spring and summer of 1857. About the same time several families of Norwegians settled in the northeastern part of the county. Among them were Christian Anderson, John Iverson, John Johnson, H. J. Knudson, Colburn Larson, Louis Nelson and Oliver Peterson.

Martin Bumbardner was of German extraction and was born February 5, 1821. Soon after he arrived in Winnebago County he married Miss Caroline E. Church, which was the first marriage to be solemnized in the county. He built the first courthouse in Winnebago County and later removed to Hancock County. His death occurred on January 30, 1884. His widow is still living in Winnebago County.

#### SOME FIRST THINGS

The first cabin in the county was built by Philip Tennis in 1854, about half a mile east of Forest City.

The first white child born in the county was George R. Blowers, son of John S. Blowers and his wife, the date of birth having been May 7, 1857.

The first marriage was that of Martin Bumgardner to Miss Caroline E. Church in the spring of 1857.

The first death was that of Mrs. Louis Nelson, March 14, 1857. She was buried in Norway Township.

The first sermon preached in the county was by a Methodist minister named Hankins, but the date when it was preached cannot be ascertained.

The first postoffice in the county was established at Forest City early in 1857, with Robert Clark as postmaster.

The first schoolhouse was built at Forest City in 1858 and Sarah Beadle taught the first school there.

The first justice of the peace in the county was C. W. Scott, who was appointed in the spring of 1857.

The first land entry was made by John B. Gilchrist on August 20, 1856—the west half of the northeast quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter, Section 26, Township 98, range 24.

The first ground was broken by Thomas Bearse in what is now Norway ownership in 1855.

The first sawmill was erected at Forest City soon after the town was laid out in 1856.

The first deed recorded is dated May 25, 1857, whereby C. H. Day conveyed to G. W. Campbell the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 98, Range 24.

The first mortgage recorded is dated September 4, 1857, and was given by J. B. Landis to John Lamm on the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 98, Range 24, to secure a debt of \$850.

The first train to run into Forest City was on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad on December 10, 1879.

The first newspaper in the county was the Winnebago Press, which made its appearance on June 14, 1867.

The first resident physician was Dr. W. H. Jones, who located in Forest City on December 23, 1869.

The first lawyer was Jerry Murphy, who opened an office at Forest City in 1857.

The first term of the District Court in Winnebago County was held at Forest City in June, 1859.

The first fourth of July celebration was held at Forest City in 1859.

#### PIONEER LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Compared with the conditions of the present day, the pioneers of Winnebago County encountered some actual hardships and a great many inconveniences. One of the first problems with which the newcomer was confronted was to provide shelter for himself and family. Most of the early settlers selected claims where timber could be obtained, and the first houses were log cabins. Often the settler's only assistance in building his cabin was furnished by the members of his family. In such cases small logs or poles, that could be easily handled, were selected, and the walls were not more than six feet in height. Such a dwelling could hardly be called a "mansion," but it sheltered its inmates from the inclemencies of the weather. Sometimes two or three families would come together, when one cabin would be hastily constructed, in which all would live until each settler could build a house of his own. As the number of inhabitants increased the desire for better cabins grew, and the "house raising" became a social as well as an industrial event. After the logs were cut into proper

lengths and dragged to the site of the proposed cabin, the settler would send out invitations to his neighbors, some of whom probably lived several miles away, to attend the "raising." These invitations were rarely declined, for the pioneers felt their dependence upon each other and were always ready to lend a helping hand.

When all were assembled four men would be selected to "carry up the corners," and took their stations at the four corners of the cabin. Skilled in the use of the ax, as the logs were lifted up to them they shaped a "saddle" on the top and cut a notch in the underside of the next log to fit upon the "saddle." By cutting the notches a little deeper in the "butt end" of the logs, and alternating the butt and top ends, the walls were carried up approximately level. No plumb lines were used, the walls being kept perpendicular by the eyes of the corner-men. Doors and windows were sawed out after the walls were up. An opening was also made at one end for a fireplace. Outside of this opening would be built a chimney of small logs, lined inside with clay to prevent its catching fire. If stone was convenient a stone chimney would be constructed, and sometimes the chimney would be built of squares of sod, laid up as a mason lays a wall of bricks. The roof of the cabin was of clapboards, split or rived with an implement called a frow, and the floor, if there was one, was of puncheons, that is, thin slabs of timber split as nearly the same thickness as possible, the upper surface being smoothed off with an adz after the floor was laid.

Hardware was a luxury in a new country, and many of the pioneer cabins were completed without a single article of iron being used in their construction. The clapboards of the roof were held in place by "weight poles," which ran the full length of the cabin and were fastened to the end logs with wooden pins. The door was made of thin puncheons, fastened together with wooden pins, hung on wooden hinges and provided with a wooden latch. A thong of deerskin attached to the latch was passed through a small hole in the door and furnished the means of lifting the latch from the outside. At night the thong could be drawn inside and the door was locked. This custom gave rise to the expression: "The latchstring is always out," signifying that a visitor would be welcome at any time. The cracks between the logs were "chinked" with pieces of timber and plastered over with clay to keep out the cold.

The furniture was in keeping with the house, being usually of the "home-made" variety and of the simplest character. In one corner was the bedstead, which was constructed in the following manner: A small sapling, with two forks as nearly at right angles as could be found, was cut the proper length to reach from the floor to the joints overhead, the forks being about two feet from the floor. The sapling

was placed about the width of an ordinary bed from one wall and the length of the bed from the other. Poles were then laid in the two forks, the other ends of the poles resting in a crack between the logs or in large auger holes. Across the poles were then laid clapboards, upon which the housewife placed her straw tick, or a feather bed, if the family possessed one. Such a bedstead was called a "prairie rascal." Springs there were none, but "honest toil brought sweet repose" to the tired pioneer and he slept as soundly upon his "prairie rascal" as do many persons now upon more sumptuous couches.

Holes bored in the logs and fitted with strong pins served to support clapboards for a "china closet," the front of which was a curtain of some cheap cotton cloth, though in many homes the curtain was lacking. Stools and benches took the places of chairs. A table was made by battening together some clapboards to form a top, which was placed upon a pair of trestles. When not in use the trestles were placed one upon the other and the top leaned against the wall to make more room in the cabin. Stoves were almost unknown and the cooking was done at the great fireplace, an iron teakettle, a long-handled skillet, a big copper-bottomed coffee pot and a large iron kettle being the principal cooking utensils. Bread was baked in the skillet, which was set upon a bed of live coals and more coals heaped upon the iron lid, so the bread would bake at both top and bottom. The large iron kettle was used for preparing the "boiled dinner," which consisted of meat and two or three kinds of vegetables cooked together. "Johnny cake" was made by spreading a stiff dough of corn meal upon one side of a smooth board and propping it up in front of the fire. When one side of the cake was baked sufficiently, the dough would be turned over to give the other side its inning. Many times a generous supply of "johnny cake" and a bowl of fresh milk constituted the only supper of the pioneer, but it was a supper which no early settler would blush to set before an unexpected guest. While preparing the meals the house-wife would nearly always wear a large "sunbonnet" to protect her face from the heat.

Somewhere in the cabin was the "gun rack," which was formed of two hooks, fashioned from the forks of small trees. In these forks rested the long, heavy rifle of the settler, while suspended from the muzzle of the gun or from one of the forks were the bullet-pouch and powder-horn. The rifle was depended upon in many instances to furnish the meat supply of the family, as game of all kinds abounded. Deer were especially plentiful and it is related that at one time Thomas Bearse and Philip Tennis had as many as three hundred hanging on trees in the woods. The animals were killed for their skins and the carcasses were left to the wolves.

## SWAPPING WORK

In these days, with plenty of money in circulation and a bank in almost every village, when one needs assistance he can hire some one to come and help him. When the first settlers came to Winnebago County money was exceedingly scarce and they overcame the difficulty by swapping work. They assisted each other to build cabins in which to live; frequently ten or a dozen men would gather in a wheatfield, and while some would swing the cradle the others would bind the sheaves and place them in shocks. When one field was finished the whole party would move on to another, where the wheat was ripest, and so on until the wheat crop of the entire neighborhood was made ready for threshing.

While the men were at work in the harvest field, the women folk would gather and prepare dinner, each one bringing from her own store some little delicacy which she thought the others might not be able to furnish. Elk meat, bear meat and venison were common at such dinners. The meal was often served out of doors, under the shade of the trees, and as each man brought with him a good appetite, when they arose from the table it looked "like a cyclone had struck it."

Matches were rare in the new settlements and a little fire was always kept burning somewhere on the premises "for seed." During cold weather the fire was kept in the fireplace without trouble, but when the summer time came and fire in the house would render it uncomfortable, a small log heap was kept burning out of doors. If by some mishap the fire was extinguished, one of the family would have to go to a neighbor to "borrow" a fresh supply.

How easy it is now to enter a dark room, turn a switch and flood the whole place with electric light. But when the first settlers came to Winnebago County sixty years ago the electric light was unknown. Even the kerosene lamp had not then been invented and the house-wife improvised a lamp by using a shallow dish, which was partially filled with lard or some other kind of grease. Into this dish was placed a loosely twisted cotton rag, one end of which projected over the side of the dish. The projecting end was then lighted, and although the lamp emitted both smoke and odor that could hardly be tolerated by fastidious persons now, it answered the purpose then, affording enough light to enable the good woman to attend to her duties. Next came the tallow candle, which was made by pouring molten tallow into molds of tin, a soft cotton wick having been previously drawn through the center of the mould. A set of candle moulds consisted of six or eight candle forms soldered together. Often there was but one set of moulds in a new settlement, but they were willingly loaned by the owner



FORMER HOME OF THOMAS THOMPSON  
Built before the town of Lake Mills was established.



and passed from house to house until all had a supply of candles laid away in a cool, dry place. In the winter seasons the family would often sit around the fireplace with no light in the cabin except that of the roaring fire.

Nowadays with well stocked stores in every village and telephones in nearly every home, it is an easy matter to call up the grocer and ask him to "send up a sack of flour." But in the days prior to the Civil War going to market was no slight affair. The first settlers received their mail at Cedar Falls, in Black Hawk County, whither they made periodical trips to mill with an ox team, the one going to mill bringing back the mail for the neighborhood. Then a mill was built and a postoffice established at Mason City, which brought these conveniences a little nearer to the pioneers of Winnebago County. In 1857 a post-office was established at Forest City and the next year a mail route was opened from Clear Lake to Algona. This brought the mail, but going to mill was still something of a task. No roads were opened, streams were not bridged, and travel was attended by many drawbacks. Quite often a number of settlers would take their "turn of corn" or a few bushels of wheat to mill on the same day and wait until the grain could be ground. While thus waiting they would while away the time in athletic sports, such as running foot-races, wrestling, shooting at a mark or pitching horseshoes. McGregor or Dubuque was the nearest market for the product of the farmer. With wheat selling for forty cents a bushel and dressed pork from two to three cents a pound, a wagon load of such produce would hardly pay the expense of taking it to market. Yet the trip was made occasionally and the produce exchanged for a supply of the barest necessities, which was used with the greatest economy, for waste meant another long, dreary journey through the wilderness to the trading post. Civilization gradually brought mills and markets closer to the people of Winnebago County and the pilgrimages to McGregor and Dubuque were abandoned.

"Store clothes" were practically unknown in those early days. As soon as the wolves were driven out so that it was safe for the farmer to keep sheep, every pioneer had a small flock of those animals. The housewife would card her wool by hand with a pair of broad-backed brushes, the wire teeth of which were all slightly bent in the same direction. The rolls were then spun into yarn on the old-fashioned spinning wheel and woven into cloth upon the hand loom. Garments were then cut and made with the needle, the sewing machine having not yet been brought into use. A girl of sixteen years of age who could not manage a spinning wheel and turn out her "six cuts" a day, or who could not make her own dresses was a rarity in a new

settlement. How many of the girls who graduated from the various high schools of Winnebago County in 1917 know what the term "six cuts" means? Or how many of them can cut and make their own gowns unassisted?

#### AMUSEMENTS AND PASTIMES

Although the pioneers had their hardships and privations, it must not be imagined for a moment that their lives were utterly devoid of relaxation and entertainment. A popular social function in a new settlement was the "house-warming." A new cabin was hardly considered fit to live in until it had been properly dedicated. In almost every frontier settlement there was at least one man who could play the violin. When the new house was ready for occupancy the "fiddler" was called into requisition and the cabin would give forth a "sound of revelry by night." On these occasions no fox-trot, tango or hesitation waltz was seen, but the Virginia reel, the stately minuet or the old-fashioned cotillion, in which some one "called the figures" in a stentorian voice, were very much in evidence. The music furnished may not have been classic, but the old-time fiddler could make his violin respond to such airs as "The Bowery Gals," "Money Musk," "Step Light Ladies," and "Turkey in the Straw," and what he lacked in scientific training he made up in the vigor of his execution. It is doubtful whether the fashionable guests at a presidential inaugural ball ever derived more pleasure from the event than did these people of the frontier at a house-warming. If the settler who owned the cabin had scruples against dancing, some other form of amusement was substituted, but the house had to be "warmed" by some sort of frolic before the family took possession.

Then there was the husking bee, commonly called a "corn shucking," in which pleasure and profit were combined. After the invitations to the "shucking" were sent out, the farmer divided his corn into two piles, as nearly equal in size as possible. When the guests arrived two of them would "choose up" and divide those present into two companies, the contest being to see which would first finish its pile of corn. Both men and women took part and one of the rules was that the young man who found a red ear was permitted to kiss the young woman next to him in the circle. "Many a merry laugh went round" when some one found a red ear and the lassie objected to being kissed. The young men were not above playing an underhand game by passing the same red ear surreptitiously from one to another.

Women's clubs, such as exist at the present time, were then unknown, but the women had their quilting parties, when a number of

them would take their needles and thimbles and gather at some house to unite in making a quilt. Then there would be a friendly rivalry to see who could run the straightest line or make the neatest stitches. Corn huskings and quiltings were frequently followed by a dance and the guests would pass an hour or two in "tripping the light fantastic toe," though it must be admitted that the toes were not always light nor fantastic.

With the introduction of the public school system came the spelling school. Upon the appointed evening the whole community—men, women and children—would gather at the school house to engage in a spelling contest. As at the husking bee, two captains would "choose up" and the spellers were arranged upon two opposing sides. The teacher, or some person agreed upon, would then "give out" the words, first to one side and then to the other. If a speller missed a word he took his seat and the contest went on until only a single speller, the victor was left standing. To "spell down" an entire school district was an achievement of which one could feel proud.

At the close of the spelling match the young men, with a quickened pulse for fear of "getting the mitten," would approach the young women with the stereotyped formula: "May I see you home?" Sometimes an acquaintance thus begun ripened into an intimacy that ended in a wedding, which was followed by a charivari, or, as it was pronounced on the frontier, a "shivaree." The charivari was a serenade in which discordant noises took the place of harmony and was generally kept up until the bride and groom showed themselves. The affair terminated all the more pleasantly if each of the serenaders was given a piece of wedding cake "to dream over." Quite likely the young men of that period were no more superstitious than those of the present, but it is certain that many of them placed that morsel of wedding cake under their pillows upon retiring, firm in the belief that it would bring pleasant dreams that were destined to come true.

Such was the manner in which the first settlers of Winnebago County lived. All things considered these pioneers are entitled to a place of honor in the memory of the present generation. They braved the dangers of the frontier, brought the raw prairie under cultivation, drained the swamps, conquered the prowling wolf and savage red man, and amid adverse conditions overcame all obstacles, building up an empire in the wilderness. Their life was hard and their reward meager, when measured by present day advantages, but their work was well done. It was of such an environment as theirs that Robert Burns wrote:

"But buirdly chiels and clever hizzies  
Are bred in sie a way as this is."

## CHAPTER II

### WINNEBAGO COUNTY ORGANIZED

PROGRESS OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER—TERRITORY OF IOWA—STATEHOOD—THE ORGANIC ACT—BOUNDARIES OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY—PROVISIONS FOR ORGANIZING NEW COUNTIES—FIRST COUNTY ELECTION—LOCATING THE COUNTY SEAT—FIRST COURT-HOUSE—PRESENT COURT-HOUSE—THE POOR FARM.

Before proceeding to notice the manner in which Winnebago County was organized, let us consider briefly some of the events preceding its organization. When President Jefferson, on March 1, 1804, approved the act of Congress providing for the exercise of sovereignty over Louisiana, the territory now comprising the County of Winnebago came for the first time under the jurisdiction of the United States. That act provided that from and after October 1, 1804, all that part of the Province of Louisiana lying south of the thirty-first parallel of north latitude should be known as the Territory of Orleans, and the portion north of that parallel as the District of Louisiana. In the latter was included the present State of Iowa. The District of Louisiana was placed under the jurisdiction of the Territory of Indiana, of which Gen. William H. Harrison was then governor.

On July 4, 1805, the District of Louisiana was organized as a separate territory and given a government of its own. When the Territory of Orleans was admitted into the Union in 1812 as the State of Louisiana, the name of the northern district was changed to the Territory of Missouri. In 1821 Missouri was admitted into the Union with its present boundaries, and all north of that state was left without any form of civil government whatever. No one seems to have given the matter any thought at the time, probably for the reason that the only white people in that region were a few wandering hunters and trappers, or the agents of the different fur companies, all of whom were more interested in the profits of their occupations than they were in establishing permanent settlements and paying taxes to support a government.

On June 28, 1834, President Jackson approved an act of Congress attaching the present State of Iowa to the Territory of Michigan,



MR. AND MRS. A. T. COLE

Natives of Ohio who came to Forest City in 1856. Mrs. Cole was born October 4, 1834, and died June 28, 1907. Mr. Cole was born December 21, 1833, and died June 7, 1903.



which then included all the country from Lake Huron westward to the Missouri River. By this act Iowa came under the jurisdiction of Michigan and the legislature of that territory divided Iowa into two counties, as stated in the preceding chapter.

Iowa continued as a part of Michigan for less than two years. On April 20, 1836, President Jackson approved the act creating the Territory of Wisconsin, to take effect on July 4, 1836. Gen. Henry Dodge was appointed governor of the new territory, which embraced the present State of Wisconsin and all the territory west of the Mississippi River formerly included in or attached to Michigan. Pursuant to Governor Dodge's proclamation, the first election ever held on Iowa soil was held on October 3, 1836, for members of the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature.

#### TERRITORY OF IOWA

A census of Wisconsin, taken in 1836, showed that there were then 10,531 white people living in what is now the State of Iowa. During the twelve months following the taking of that census there was a rapid increase in the population, and early in the fall of 1837 the question of dividing the territory and establishing a new one west of the Mississippi became a subject of engrossing interest to the people living west of the great river. The sentiment in favor of a new territory found definite expression in a convention held at Burlington on November 3, 1837, which adopted a memorial to Congress asking for the erection of a new territory west of the Mississippi. In response to this expression of the popular sentiment, Congress passed an act dividing Wisconsin and establishing the Territory of Iowa. The act was approved by President Van Buren on June 12, 1838, and it became effective on the 3d of July following. The boundaries of Iowa as fixed by the act included "All that part of the Territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi River and west of a line drawn due north from the headwater or sources of the Mississippi to the northern boundary of the territory of the United States."

President Van Buren appointed Robert Lucas, of Ohio, as the first territorial governor of Iowa; William B. Conway, of Pennsylvania, secretary; Charles Mason, of Burlington, chief justice; Thomas S. Wilson, of Dubuque, and Joseph Williams, of Pennsylvania, associate justices; Isaac Van Allen, of New York, district attorney; Francis Gehon, of Dubuque, United States marshal. The white people living west of the Mississippi now had a government of their own, though by far the greater part of the new territory was still in the hands of the Indians.

## STATEHOOD

On February 12, 1844, more than thirteen years before Winnebago County was organized, the Iowa Legislature, acting under the authority of and with the consent of the Federal Government, passed an act providing for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention. The convention met at Iowa City on October 7, 1844, and finished its work on the first day of November. The constitution framed by this convention was rejected by the people at an election held on August 4, 1845, by a vote of 7,656 to 7,235.

A second constitutional convention assembled at Iowa City on May 4, 1846, and remained in session for two weeks. The constitution adopted by this convention was submitted to the voters of the territory at the general election on August 3, 1846, and was ratified by a vote of 9,492 to 9,036. It was also approved by Congress and on December 28, 1846, President Polk affixed his signature to the bill admitting Iowa into the Union as a state. At that time all the northwestern part of the state was unorganized territory, or was included in the old County of Fayette, which had been established by the Territorial Legislature of Wisconsin in December, 1837. Fayette was probably the largest county ever established in the United States. It extended from the Mississippi River west to the White Earth River and north to the British Possessions, embracing all the present State of Minnesota, Northwestern Iowa and all of North and South Dakota east of the White Earth and Missouri rivers, with a total area of 140,000 square miles. Winnebago County was included in the County of Fayette.

## THE ORGANIC ACT

On January 15, 1851, Gov. Stephen Hempstead approved an act of the Iowa Legislature creating fifty new counties out of the unorganized territory in the western portion of the state. One section of that act provided:

“That the following shall be the boundaries of a new county to be called Winnebago, to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of township 98 north, range 23, west; thence north on the line dividing ranges 22 and 23 to the north boundary line of the state; thence west on said boundary line to the northwest corner of section 7, township 100 north, range 26 west; thence south on the line dividing ranges 26 and 27 to the southwest corner of township 98 north, range 26 west; thence east to the place of beginning.”

The boundaries as thus defined are identical with the county boundaries at the present time. In the winter of 1856-57 Alexander Long

was commissioned by the settlers of the county to go to Iowa City and use his influence with the General Assembly to have the north tier of townships in Hancock County attached to Winnebago. In company with a young man named George Meyers, he started on December 2, 1856, with a two-horse team and sleigh for Iowa City. That afternoon they encountered a blizzard, lost their way and were both frozen to death near "Upper Grove," Hancock County. The horses were also frozen. The bodies of Long and Meyers were not found until the following April, when they were taken to Mason City for burial. Another effort was made in the fall of 1863 to annex part of Hancock County to Winnebago, but it came to naught and the original boundaries still remain.

None of the counties created by the act of 1851 was organized for some time afterward. Scattered over the vast territory was a solitary settler here and there, but in none of the counties was the population sufficient to justify a county organization. For judicial and election purposes the new counties were attached to some of the older and regularly organized ones, Winnebago being attached to the County of Polk. By the act of January 22, 1853, it was attached to Boone, where it remained until July 1, 1855, when it was attached to Webster. Meantime a tide of immigration was pouring into Iowa and as early as January 12, 1853, Governor Hempstead approved an act for the organization of counties, which act contained the following provisions:

"Whenever the citizens of any unorganized county desire to have the same organized, they may make application by petition in writing, signed by a majority of the legal voters of said county, to the county judge of the county to which such unorganized county is attached, whereupon the said county judge shall order an election for county officers in such unorganized county.

"A majority of the citizens of any county, after becoming so organized, may petition the district judge in whose judicial district the same is situated, during the vacation of the General Assembly, whose duty it shall be to appoint three commissioners from three different adjoining counties, who shall proceed to locate the county seat for such county, according to the provisions of this act," etc.

Pursuant to the above provisions, the voters of Winnebago County presented a petition to the county judge of Webster County in the fall of 1857, and that official issued the order for an election of county officers. The date of the election is lost, but it is known that Robert Clark was elected county judge; Charles H. Day, treasurer and recorder; B. F. Denslow, clerk of the courts; John S. Blowers, sheriff; C. W. Scott, surveyor and superintendent of schools; Darius Bray, drainage commissioner.

The next step was to locate the county seat. Application was accordingly made to Judge Asahel W. Hubbard, judge of the Fourth Judicial District, in which Winnebago County was at that time located, to appoint commissioners for that purpose. He appointed T. E. Brown, of Polk County; Dr. William Church, of Webster County; and Dr. William Farmer, of Boone County. These gentlemen visited Winnebago in the summer of 1858, and after looking at the proposed sites for a county seat, reported in favor of "the east half of the northeast quarter of section 35, township 98, range 24, where in March, 1856, Robert Clark laid out the town of Forest City."

#### FIRST COURT-HOUSE

Winnebago County was now organized, had a full set of county officers and a seat of justice, but the officers had no place to transact business. Temporary quarters were found in a small building and a petition was circulated asking the county judge to take the necessary steps to erect a court-house to cost \$20,000. The petition was signed by every legal voter in the county, except one, and armed with this authority Judge Clark entered into a contract with Martin Bumgardner to erect the court-house. Bonds to the amount of \$20,000 were issued and Judge Clark, accompanied by M. Bumgardner, went to New York, where the bonds were sold. Mr. Bumgardner brought back a stock of goods and opened a store, postponing the erection of the court-house "to a more convenient season." After a delay of some time the authorities notified him that the court-house must be built at once. Plans were selected and Mr. Bumgardner began work on the foundation. Then came a change. The office of county judge was abolished by act of the Legislature and a board of supervisors established in its place.

The first board of supervisors in Winnebago was composed of E. D. Stockton, A. K. Curtis and John Anderson. Mr. Curtis was clerk of the courts and member of the board ex-officio. The new board decided that \$20,000 was too much for the county to pay for a court-house and passed a resolution to annul the bonds issued by Judge Clark. Mr. Bumgardner was also enjoined from the further prosecution of the work. The action of the board involved the county in a lawsuit and the courts finally decided that Judge Clark's action in issuing and selling the bonds was legal, and that the county was liable for their redemption.

After some delay, Mr. Bumgardner went to work on a smaller and less costly court-house, which in due time was completed. By what authority this building was erected is not certain. When it was finished, Mr. Bumgardner demanded his pay and appointed W. C.



THE ORIGINAL BRICK COURTHOUSE, FOREST CITY

Built in 1861 by M. Bumgardner. Frame addition in 1877. Torn down in 1896  
and replaced by the present splendid structure.



Stanberry, of Mason City, as his agent to settle with the supervisors. The records of the meeting of November 3, 1863, contain a copy of the following

## AGREEMENT

“I have this day sold to Winnebago County, Iowa, the brick court-house erected by Martin Bumgardner on the public square in Forest City, Iowa.

“Also—a certain contract entered into, by and between Robert Clark, county judge, and Martin Bumgardner, wherein the said Bumgardner, for the sum of \$20,000, agreed to build a court-house in said Forest City on or before the 9th day of June, 1864, said contract having been by said Robert Clark, county judge, extended to the 9th day of June, 1869. Therefore the court-house still remaining unbuilt and the money unpaid, I agree to relinquish all claim or claims upon said contract and the same to be entirely null and void.

“Also—The forced contract by which the first named court-house was built.

“Also—The sum of \$4,800 in bonds and coupons and interest thereon, which the said Stanberry relinquishes to said Winnebago county. The said W. C. Stanberry, for himself, the firm of Card & Stanberry, of which he is a member, and for Martin Bumgardner, doth covenant that he is the owner in fee simple of all the property named and that he has a good right and lawful authority to sell the same, and does by these presents sell the same to the County of Winnebago, Iowa.

“W. C. STANBERRY.”

“We, the undersigned, supervisors of Winnebago County, State of Iowa, accept the above proposition of W. C. Stanberry, and order the clerk to issue county warrants to the said Stanberry, when the said Stanberry complies with the above proposition, to the amount of \$3,500; two thousand dollars of which is in full payment for the above described court-house and fifteen hundred dollars of which is in full payment for the bonds and coupon bonds and contract as therein set forth.

“Witness our hands this 3d day of November, 1863.

“CHARLES D. SMITH, Chairman.

“WILLIAM LACKORE,

“B. F. WELLMAN.”

Thus after several years of litigation, in which some ill feeling was engendered, Winnebago County became the possessor of a court-house

sufficient for the county's needs. The building erected by Martin Bumgardner was two stories in height, with rooms for the county offices on the first floor and court and jury rooms on the second. A frame addition was built in 1877, and with this improvement the courthouse served the county until the erection of the

#### PRESENT COURT-HOUSE

On June 17, 1896, the board of supervisors took up the consideration of a petition to remove the county seat to Lake Mills. The petition had been generally circulated over the county, and at the time it was presented to the board it bore the signatures of 1,154 legal voters. Those opposed to the removal of the county seat had been busily engaged in getting up a remonstrance, which was presented to the board on the same day and was found to have been signed by 1,645 legal voters. In addition to this remonstrance, certain citizens of Forest City came forward with the following proposition:

"To the honorable board of supervisors of Winnebago County, Iowa: You are hereby formally notified that a fund has been subscribed to be used in the erection of a courthouse in Forest City, Iowa, provided the county seat is not removed from said Forest City, and that a written guarantee of such fund to the amount of \$20,000 is now on file in the office of the auditor of said county. The fund so guaranteed is hereby formally tendered to Winnebago County, Iowa, subject only to the condition contained in the said subscription and guaranty."

The census of 1895 showed that there were 2,346 voters in the county. As the petition to submit the question of removing the county seat to the voters at the next general election was signed by less than one-half, and the remonstrance was signed by a majority of the legal voters of the county, the board of supervisors took the following action:

"Whereas, a fund has been subscribed to be used in the erection of a new courthouse in Forest City, Iowa, provided the county seat of Winnebago County be not removed from Forest City, and

"Whereas, a written guarantee of such fund to the amount of \$20,000 is now on file in the office of the county auditor of said county, which said guarantee is good and sufficient, and

"Whereas, a formal written notification of the above facts was filed in the office of the citizens' committee of Forest City on the 8th day of June, 1896, therefore be it

"Resolved, that such fund so guaranteed be, and the same is hereby formally accepted by the board of supervisors in behalf of Winnebago County, Iowa, in accordance with the conditions thereof, and be it further

"Resolved, that this board proceed to take the necessary steps to cause such courthouse to be erected as soon as possible."

The next day (June 18, 1896) a public meeting was held at the office of the county auditor at 3:30 P. M. Michael Evenson, one of the supervisors, called the meeting to order and stated the action taken by the board the day before. He also stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of appointing, or selecting, a committee of citizens to act in an advisory capacity with the board of supervisors in the erection of a new courthouse. After some general discussion of the matter, the following were selected as members of the committee: Gilbert S. Gilbertson, Thomas Jacobs and Eugene Secor, of Forest City; N. I. Nelson, Lake Mills; L. M. Staba, Buffalo Center; James Ellickson, Thompson; M. O. Skuttle, Norman; and Charles Isaacs, Leeland.

On June 30, 1896, the board of supervisors and citizens' committee met to select plans. Eight architects submitted designs, those of Kinney & Orth, architects of Minneapolis, Minnesota, being chosen. Bids were then advertised for and on July 21, 1896, the contract was awarded to H. A. Gross, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, for \$20,496. The contractor lost no time in carrying out his part of the agreement, and on January 6, 1897, the building committee certified that the courthouse was complete. It was then accepted by the board of supervisors.

#### THE POOR FARM

Those who break away from an old community and go out upon the frontier to develop the resources of a new country, and incidentally to better their own fortunes, are never weaklings. As a rule the pioneers are men and women of strength and courage, blessed with good health, full of energy, well endowed with fortitude, and capable of contending with the difficulties that the first settlers in every new country have to meet and overcome. It was so in Winnebago County. Among such persons there is little need of established charities. If some settler met with misfortune and needed assistance the neighbors were always willing to lend a helping hand, hence it was many years before the county authorities found it necessary to establish a home for the unfortunate poor. The first mention of such an institution in the county records is found in the minutes of the supervisors' meeting on January 1, 1883, when the following action was taken by the board:

"The board of supervisors of Winnebago County, Iowa, deem it for the public interest to establish a poor farm and whereas Winnebago County is a small county it has been thought best to negotiate with Worth and Hancock Counties and ascertain if they are willing to

unite with Winnebago County in said proposed project."

Knut Johnson was appointed by the board to visit Worth and Hancock Counties and consult with the supervisors with regard to a poor farm, to be located somewhere near the junction of the three counties and maintained by them jointly, in proportion to the number of inmates in the institution from each county. If Mr. Johnson ever made a report it cannot be found, but the project evidently did not meet with the approbation of the authorities of Worth and Hancock, as such a farm was never established.

On April 5, 1904, the board of supervisors of Winnebago County, then composed of J. J. Holland, W. H. Combs and C. O. Thompson, adopted the following resolution: "That a farm to be used as a poor farm, to consist of not more than 160 acres, be purchased, and that county bonds to the amount of \$20,000 be issued and sold to pay for said farm and the necessary buildings and improvements thereon," etc.

The board then advertised that bids offering tracts of land to the county for such farm would be received until May 16, 1904. Several sites were offered, at prices ranging from forty to sixty dollars an acre, and the board decided to visit and examine each before making any purchase. Before this part of the proceedings could be carried out a question arose regarding the legality of the bonds, which investment companies refused to take. The question was referred to the county attorney for his opinion and he advised the board that the question of issuing the bonds should have been submitted to the voters of the county for their approval or rejection. On September 5, 1904, the board ordered that the proposition should be submitted to the electors at the general election on November 8, 1904, when the bond issue was endorsed by a vote of 1,530 to 597. The bonds were then issued and sold without difficulty.

On June 5, 1905, the board purchased of Amanda Severs, administratrix, a tract of ninety acres in the eastern part of King Township. The farm consists of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter and strip of forty acres across the east side of the northwest quarter of section 25, and ten acres in the south side of section 24, upon which the poor house stands. The land was purchased for \$5,000 and the remainder of the proceeds of the bond sale were used in making the necessary improvements. The bonds have since been paid and the county owns unnumbered a poor farm that is adequate to all the requirements of an institution of that nature for years to come.

In the chapter on Township History will be found many interesting facts relating to the early settlement and organization of the townships, and in the Statistical Review will be found a complete list of the county officials since it was organized in 1857.



AN EARLY-DAY STREET SCENE  
IN FOREST CITY

Building opposite team and buggy, occupied by First National Bank, 1876-1883.



WINNEBAGO COUNTY BANK,  
FOREST CITY, DECEMBER, 1880



MAIN STREET, FOREST CITY, 1896



## CHAPTER III.

### TOWNSHIP HISTORY

CONGRESSIONAL AND CIVIL TOWNSHIPS—ORIGIN OF THE TOWNSHIP—EXTENSION OF THE SYSTEM WESTWARD—IOWA TOWNSHIPS—FIRST TOWNSHIPS IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY—PRESENT DAY TOWNSHIPS—BUFFALO—CENTER—EDEN—FOREST—GRANT—KING—LINCOLN — LINDEN — LOGAN — MOUNT VALLEY—NEWTON—NORWAY—HISTORICAL SKETCH OF EACH—RAILROAD FACILITIES—SCHOOLS—POPULATION AND WEALTH.

Townships in the United States are of two kinds—congressional and civil. The former, as established by the official survey of the public domain, is six miles square, except in rare instances, and contains an area of thirty-six square miles. It is designated by a number and is bounded on the east and west by range lines. The civil township varies in size, the boundaries often being formed by natural features, such as creeks, rivers or mountain ranges. It is distinguished by a name instead of a number and further differs from the congressional township in that it has a local government as a minor political subdivision of the county.

The civil township doubtless had its origin in the old Teutonic “mark,” though it was transplanted to this country from England. Says Fiske: “About 871 A. D. King Alfred instituted a small territorial subdivision nearest in character to and probably containing the germ of the American township.”

The “small territorial subdivision” instituted by King Alfred was known as the “tunscipe.” It was the political unit of popular expression, which took the form of mass convention or assembly and was called the “tun moot.” The chief executive of the tunscipe was the “tun reeve,” who, with the parish priest and four lay delegates, represented the tunscipe in the county assembly or shire meeting.

In the settlement of New England, the colonies were at first governed by a general court, which also possessed legislative powers. The court was composed of the governor of the colony and a small council, usually made up of the most influential citizens. In March, 1635, the General Court of Massachusetts passed the following ordinance relating to the local government of certain districts:

“Whereas, particular towns have many things that concern only

themselves, and the ordering of their own affairs and disposing of business in their own town, therefore, the freemen of every town, or a majority of them, shall have power to dispose of their own lands and woods, and all appurtenances of said towns; to grant lots, and to make such orders as may concern the well ordering of their own towns, not repugnant to the laws and orders established by the General Court.

“Said freemen, or a majority of them, shall also have power to choose their own particular officers, such as constables, petty magistrates, surveyors for the highways, and may impose fines for violation of rules established by the freemen of the town—provided that such fines shall in no single case exceed twenty shillings.”

That was the beginning of the township system in the United States, and the “*tun moot*” of King Alfred’s time became the “town meeting” in New England. Connecticut followed Massachusetts with similar provisions regarding local self-government, and the system was gradually carried to the states of the Middle West. In the southern colonies the county was made the principal political unit for the government of local affairs. Eight counties were organized in Virginia in 1634 and this method spread to other colonies, except in South Carolina, where the units corresponding to counties are called “districts,” and in Louisiana, where they are known as “parishes.” All the country conquered by Gen. George Rogers Clark in 1778 was erected into “Illinois County” by the Legislature of Virginia.

The first provision for the establishment of civil townships northwest of the Ohio River was made by Governor St. Clair and the judges of the Northwest Territory in 1790. Even yet in New England the township is of more importance in the settlement of local questions of a political nature than is the county. The town meetings are still held regularly and through them most of the business of local government is transacted. Every proposition to expend any considerable sum of money for public purposes is first submitted to the people at the town meeting. In the South the township is little more than a name, all the local business being transacted by the county authorities. From the time the first townships were established in the Northwest Territory the two systems of township and county government have been well balanced throughout the Middle West, the schools and roads usually being under the control of the township officials, while business that affects more than one civil township is managed by the county officers. In nearly every state in the Mississippi Valley it is the custom to submit to the voters at a general or special election the question of issuing bonds for county or township purposes—a custom that originated in the old town meetings of New England.

## IOWA TOWNSHIPS

Township government was first established in Iowa while the state was attached to Michigan Territory. The Legislature of that territory in September, 1834, created the Township of Julien, which included the entire county of Dubuque—that is, all that part of Iowa lying north of a line drawn due west from the foot of Rock Island. Winnebago County was therefore a part of Julien Township, Dubuque County. South of the line was Flint Hill Township, which embraced all of Des Moines County. When Iowa was made a part of Wisconsin by the act of April 20, 1836, the first Legislature of that territory set about amending the laws, and the act of December 6, 1836, provided that "Each county within this territory now organized, or that may be hereafter organized, shall constitute one township for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the amended laws."

In the act of Congress organizing the Territory of Iowa, approved by President Van Buren on June 12, 1838, was a provision that all township officers should be elected by the people. In his message of November 12, 1838, to the first Legislature that was ever convened in Iowa, Gov. Robert Lueas said: "The subject of providing by law for the organization of townships and the election of township officers, and defining their powers and duties, I consider to be of the first importance and almost indispensable in the local organization of the Government. Without proper township regulations it will be extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to establish a regular school system. In most of the states, where a common school system has been established by law, the trustees of townships are important agents in executing the provisions of its laws."

The Legislature to which this message was submitted did nothing toward the establishment of civil townships, but on January 10, 1840, Governor Lueas approved an act providing for township organization. Under this act the question of forming a new township was to be submitted to the voters residing within the territory it was proposed to include in said township, and if a majority expressed themselves in favor of the proposition the township should be organized. This system, with some supplementary legislation, continued in force until after the admission of the state in 1846. In the case of the counties created by the act of January 15, 1851, one of which was Winnebago, each was declared to be a single township until such time as the local authorities deemed it advisable to create others.

When the office of county judge was abolished by the act of March 2, 1860, the township system assumed greater importance in Iowa than ever before. The act became effective on July 4, 1860, and required

the voters of each township in the county to elect one member of the county board of supervisors at the next general election, the supervisors so elected to take office on January 1, 1861, and to discharge all the duties formerly performed by the county judge. There were then but two civil townships in Winnebago County—Forest and Pleasant—the former embracing the southern and the latter the northern half of the county. The first board of supervisors consisted of one member from each of these townships and a supervisor at large. In 1862 the supervisors were given power to create new townships and to regulate the number of members of the board of supervisors in the county.

#### FIRST TOWNSHIPS IN WINNEBAGO

Soon after the county was organized in the fall of 1857, it was divided into the two civil townships of Forest and Pleasant, as above noted. On June 6, 1864, the board of supervisors, then composed of Charles D. Smith, William Lackore and B. F. Wellman, divided the county into four townships as follows:

“Center Township to consist of and comprise from section 18 to 36 inclusive of township 99, range 26, and all of township 98, ranges 25 and 26, and sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 36 and that part of the east half of section 35 north of L Street and east of Fourth Street in Forest City in township 98, range 24.

“Forest Township to consist of and comprise from section 18 to 36 inclusive of township 99, range 26, and all of township 98, Ranges 25 and 26, and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and the west half of 35 south of L Street and west of Fourth Street in Forest City in township 98, range 34.

“Norway Township to contain or comprise from section 7 to section 30 inclusive of township 100, ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26.

“Pleasant Township to contain or comprise from section 31 to 36 inclusive of township 100, ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26; also sections 1 to 18 inclusive of township 99, ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26.”

On June 3, 1868, the board of supervisors created Iowa Township, which included “sections 19 to 36 inclusive of township 99, range 23, sections 1 to 18 inclusive of township 98, range 23, and sections 19 to 30 inclusive of township 99, range 24.”

No further change relating to townships was made until June 7, 1875, when the board adopted the following: “Resolved, that the township boundaries of the civil townships of Winnebago County be, and the same are hereby, so changed that there shall be but three civil townships instead of five as heretofore; and that Forest Township shall hereafter include all the congressional townships numbered 98,

of ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26; Center Township shall include all the congressional townships numbered 99, of ranges 23, 24, 25, and 26; and Norway Township shall include all the congressional townships numbered 100, of ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26."

#### PRESENT DAY TOWNSHIPS

Since the adoption of the above resolution on June 7, 1875, various changes have been made in the matter of civil townships, until now each civil township corresponds to a congressional township and is therefore six miles square, except those forming the northern tier, in each of which sections 1 to 6 inclusive lie north of the state line and are in Minnesota. The twelve townships are: Buffalo, Center, Eden, Forest, Grant, King, Lincoln, Linden, Logan, Mount Valley, Newton and Norway. Following is a brief history of each township, and for the convenience of the reader they are presented in alphabetical order, without regard to the order in which they were established.

#### BUFFALO TOWNSHIP

Buffalo Township is the most western of the middle tier and embraces congressional township 99, range 26. It was created by the board of supervisors on September 5, 1888, and the first election was ordered to be held at the Barnes schoolhouse. On the north it is bounded by Lincoln Township; on the east by King; on the south by Grant, and on the west by Kossuth County. It was a part of Center Township until the spring of 1881, when it was made a part of Newton. In January, 1886, it was made a part of King and so remained until established as a separate township in 1888.

The surface of the township is gently undulating and in some places the ground was originally swampy. This probably accounts for the fact that the settlements in this part of the county were among the last to be established. The first settlements were made in Buffalo Township while it was still a part of Newton. Within recent years two large drainage districts have been made to include the greater portion of this township, which improvement has reclaimed large tracts of land and has been the means of adding to the population. According to the state census for 1915 the population was 1,500, including the incorporated town of Buffalo Center, only two townships—Forest and Center—showing a larger number of inhabitants.

The Rock Island Railroad runs east and west, almost in the exact center of the township, and the town of Buffalo Center is located on this railroad, about a mile from the Kossuth County line. In 1916 the

property of the township was valued for tax purposes at \$537,156, these figures including the town of Buffalo Center.

#### CENTER TOWNSHIP

This township was first established on June 6, 1864, though several changes were subsequently made in its boundaries and it was reduced to its present dimensions in April, 1881. It now embraces congressional township 99, range 23, and has an area of thirty-six square miles, nearly all of which is capable of being cultivated. It is bounded on the north by Norway Township; on the east by Worth County; on the south by Mount Valley Township, and on the west by the Township of Newton. Lime Creek flows in a southerly direction through the northwestern part and the southeastern portion has been drained by ditching. The soil is fertile and some of the best farms in the county are in this township. The greater part of the township is prairie, though there are some groves of timber in the eastern and northeastern portions.

The first settler in Center was George Thomas, who came to the county in the spring of 1855 and made a claim about half way between the present town of Lake Mills and Rice Lake, where he lived until his death about three years later. His son, George W. Thomas, came at the same time and lived on the farm with his father until the latter's death, when he went to Colorado. In 1860 he returned to Winnebago County and the following year built a residence in Section 11 and became a permanent citizen.

John Anderson and a man named Taugue settled in the township in 1856 and the next year came the three Porter brothers and Joseph Burns. Charles D. Smith settled in the township in 1858 and purchased the claim of Joseph Burns. He served several terms as county supervisor and in 1866, in partnership with S. D. Wadsworth, built the steam flour mill and sawmill from which the town of Lake Mills derived its name. Later a shingle machine and a carding mill were added. He was the first mayor of Lake Mills when the town was incorporated in 1881 and is still living in that town.

Another settler of 1858 was John B. Aulman, a native of France, who came to America in 1843, landing at New Orleans, but soon afterward went to Philadelphia, where he lived until he settled in Winnebago County. When he first came to the county in 1858 he selected 320 acres of land in sections 8 and 9, Center Township, and then returned to Philadelphia for his family. He raised the first crop on his farm in 1860.

Between the years 1860 and 1866 quite a number of people settled



COURTHOUSES, OLD AND NEW, FOREST CITY, 1896



in Center. Among them were Patrick Malone, John Johnson, J. J. Kleven, Elef Elefson, Charles Ruby, Thomas Thompson and E. D. Hinman. The descendants of some of these men still live in the township.

The first schoolhouse was built on section 2 late in the year 1859, and the first school was taught by E. D. Hinman in 1860. There are now six public schools in the township, not including the school in the town of Lake Mills. The first sermon was preached in 1862 by a minister named Saxby.

Two lines of railroad traverse the northern half of the township. The Chicago & Northwestern enters Winnebago County from the east, about two miles south of the northeast corner of Center Township and runs northwest through the town of Lake Mills, where it crosses the Minneapolis & St. Louis, which runs in a southwesterly direction to Forest City and north to Albert Lea, Minnesota.

According to the state census of 1915, the population of Center Township was then 2,194, including the town of Lake Mills, showing it to be the second township of the county in the number of inhabitants. The property of the township, including that of Lake Mills, was assessed for taxation in 1916 at \$606,583.

#### EDEN TOWNSHIP

Situated in the northern tier, the second east of the western boundary of the county, is Eden Township. It was originally a part of Norway, but was established as a separate township on January 9, 1886, and then included township 100, ranges 25 and 26. It was reduced to its present dimensions on November 12, 1889, when Lincoln Township was cut off, and now embraces congressional township 100, range 25. On the north it is bounded by the State of Minnesota; on the east by Logan Township; on the south by King Township, and on the west by the Township of Lincoln. It is one of the fractional townships and has an area of about thirty square miles. The surface is generally level or slightly rolling and the soil is fertile. There is no stream in the township, though much of the land has been drained by artificial methods.

The first settlements were made while the territory was still a part of Norway Township. Eden has no railroad. The most convenient railroad stations are Rake and Thompson, in Winnebago County, and Bricelyn, Minnesota. The township has six public schools and reported a population of 623 in 1915, when the state census was taken. In 1916 the property was valued for taxation at \$259,843.

## FOREST TOWNSHIP

This is one of the oldest townships in the county. It was established soon after the county was organized and originally embraced all the southern half of the county. Several changes were made in the boundaries between 1858 and 1880, when the erection of Linden Township reduced Forest to its present extent. It now includes congressional township 98, range 24, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Newton Township; on the east by the Township of Mount Valley; on the south by Hancock County, and on the west by Linden Township.

The surface is rolling and in some places hilly. When the first settlers came to this part of the county they found about one-third of the area of the township covered with timber, which gave rise to the name. Lime Creek enters from the north near the northeast corner and flows in a southerly direction across the entire township. In the valley of this stream and the western part the soil is fertile and produces good crops of all the grain and vegetables adapted to the climate.

A man named Gray is credited with being the first settler. He came in 1855 and built a house in section 26, about a mile north of where Forest City is now located, but in the fall of that year he sold out to John Gilchrist and Jesse Bonar and went back to Hardin County. About the time that Gilchrist and Bonar bought Gray's claim, James Weston settled in section 25, not far from where the cemetery is now situated. He came from the eastern part of the state and in the spring of 1856 went to Chickasaw County.

A number of immigrants came into the township in 1856. A man named Decker, with his four sons-in-law, settled along Lime Creek in the northeastern part, about where the town of Leland now stands. One of the sons-in-law afterward went farther south and made a claim in section 26. Charles Strong, a New Yorker, settled near the eastern boundary, about two miles northeast of Forest City. After a residence of less than a year he sold out and went to Owen's Grove, Cerro Gordo County. Another settler of 1856 was Seneca Carrington, who came from Mason City and located in section 24. The next year he "pulled up stakes" and went to Missouri, and from there to Indiana. Abraham and William Foster selected claims in section 33 in 1856, but soon afterward went to Minnesota. John Lamm and his father, William Lamm, also came in 1856. The former located in section 23 and the latter selected land in section 14, but went back to Ohio the following year. The early settlers about Forest City are mentioned in another chapter.

Forest was the first township in the county to be provided with officers of justice. In the spring of 1857 C. W. Scott and A. T. Cole went

to Fort Dodge (Winnebago being then attached to Webster County), and were appointed justice of the peace and constable respectively. The returns of the first election in the fall of 1857 have not been preserved, but it is known that Mr. Scott was continued in the office of justice of the peace and that James J. Barker was elected township clerk. In 1859 Allen T. Cole and James Collier were elected trustees; James J. Barker, clerk; C. W. Scott, and A. K. Curtis, justices of the peace; John Lamm, assessor; William Laekore, road supervisor.

The first school was taught in 1858 by Miss Sarah Beadle, in a house built by Nathan Jeffords in Forest City. Exclusive of the schools at Forest City and Leland, there are now seven school districts in the county. According to the state census of 1915, the population of Forest Township was then 3,030, and in 1916 the property, not including Forest City, was valued for tax purposes at \$373,881. By including Forest City the total valuation was \$700,155.

Besides being the most populous and wealthiest township in the county, Forest is also the best provided with transportation facilities. Two lines of railroad pass through Forest City—the Minneapolis & St. Louis, and the Dows & Estherville division of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific. Leland, on the Minneapolis & St. Louis, in the northeast corner, and Neils, on the Rock Island, in the northwest corner, afford accommodations for travel and shipping better than those enjoyed by the average township of the state.

#### GRANT TOWNSHIP

Grant Township occupies the southwest corner of the county and embraces congressional township 98, range 26. On the north it is bounded by Buffalo Township; on the east by Linden; on the south by Hancock County, and on the west by the County of Kossuth. The surface is gently undulating and the only natural drainage is a small stream which rises in Buffalo Township and flows across the northwest corner of Grant into Kossuth County. This stream has been widened and deepened and now forms part of Drainage District No. 3.

Originally, this township was a part of Forest. It was made a part of Linden in the spring of 1880 and remained so until in April, 1886, when it was erected into a separate civil township and named in honor of Gen. U. S. Grant, the eighteenth President of the United States. Complete returns of the first election cannot be found, but H. H. Swingen was elected assessor; Peter H. Swingen, clerk; and G. O. Hama, constable. These men were among the early settlers and located their farms before the township was established.

Grant has neither railroad nor village within its borders. It is di-

vided into nine public school districts, in each of which is a good school-house. In 1915 the population was 666, and the valuation of property for tax purposes in 1916 was \$357,790.

#### KING TOWNSHIP

When Newton Township was established in April, 1881, it included the present townships of King and Buffalo. On January 9, 1886, the board of supervisors, in response to a petition signed by numerous taxpayers, ordered that "congressional township 99, ranges 25 and 26, shall hereafter constitute a civil township to be known and designated as King Township." As thus defined it included the present Township of Buffalo, which was cut off two years later. On the north it is bounded by Eden Township; on the east by Newton; on the south by Linden, and on the west by Buffalo.

The surface is comparatively level and in its natural state a large part of the land was swampy. Drainage districts No. 1 and No. 3 have reclaimed the greater portion of the swamp lands and some of the most productive farms in the county are now in King Township. The first settlements were made while the territory was still included in Newton Township. After the Dows & Estherville division of the Rock Island railway system was built through the township the settlement was more rapid and in 1915 the population was 1,183, King being the fourth township of the county in the number of inhabitants. Located on the railroad, a little southeast of the center of the township, is the incorporated town of Thompson, a history of which is given in another chapter.

There are eight public schools in King, exclusive of the independent school district of Thompson, and in 1916 the property was appraised for taxation at \$379,665, not including the appraisement of property in the town of Thompson. In this respect the township is one of the largest taxpaying districts of the county.

#### LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

The first mention of Lincoln Township in the supervisors' records is in the minutes of the meeting on November 12, 1889, when the sum of \$1,800 was appropriated to defray the expenses of holding the general election in the township on the second Tuesday of the preceding month. It is therefore the youngest civil township in Winnebago County. From the time Norway was created in 1875 until January, 1886, the territory now comprising Lincoln was included in that township. Then Eden Township was established and included within its boundaries the present Township of Lincoln until 1889.



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH, RAKE



Lincoln Township embraces that part of congressional township 100, range 26, that lies in the State of Iowa and has an area of about thirty square miles. It is the northwestern township of the county; is bounded on the north by the State of Minnesota; on the east by Eden Township; on the south by the Township of Buffalo, and on the west by Kossuth County. The surface is level or gently rolling and the soil is fertile, though considerable ditching has been done to reclaim the swampy portions and render the land fit for cultivation.

The railroad now known as the Estherville & Albert Lea division of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific was built through the township in the early '90s and the station of Rake was established a little northwest of the center. Rake is now an incorporated town, the history of which is given in another chapter of this work.

Lincoln is divided into six independent school districts, each of which is provided with a good schoolhouse. In 1915 the population was 719, including the town of Rake, and in 1916 the valuation of all property for tax purposes was \$339,067.

#### LINDEN TOWNSHIP

This township is one of the southern tier—the third from the east line of the county. It was cut off from Forest Township on April 7, 1880, and as at first established included the present Township of Grant. Six years later it was reduced to its present extent, and now embraces township 98 north, range 25 west, with an area of thirty-six square miles. The surface is a beautiful undulating prairie, somewhat elevated, the Boone and Iowa rivers having their sources in this township. The soil is far above the average in fertility. The township is bounded on the north by King; on the east by Forest; on the south by Hancock County, and on the west by the Township of Grant.

The first settlements were made in Linden in the spring of 1871, when George Johnson, Christian Larson, Hans Mattison and a man named Mikkelsen came about the same time and entered land in the township. A little later in the same year came Christian Hanson and Martin Lund. All these early settlers were Norwegians. George Johnson plowed the first land and was the first to plant a crop. Hans Mattison taught the first school and the first sermon in the township was preached at his house by Rev. P. Lasness, a Lutheran minister. The first child born in the township was a daughter of Christian and Ellen Larson, who was born soon after the arrival of the family in 1871 and died in January, 1872. Her death was the first in the township.

The first election record obtainable is that of October 3, 1881, when

Christian Larson, I. J. Kessey and Stener Stenerson were elected trustees; Hans Mattison, Clerk; Robert Olson, justice of the peace; J. M. Anderson, constable; and A. A. Peterson, assessor.

There are nine public school districts in Linden Township, and in 1915 the population was 599. In 1916 the assessed valuation of the property was \$349,564. There is no railroad in the township, the nearest stations being Thompson, Forest City, and Crystal Lake, in Hancock County.

#### LOGAN TOWNSHIP

When Logan Township was cut off from Norway on April 5, 1881, by order of the board of supervisors of Winnebago County, it included the present townships of Eden and Lincoln. It was reduced to its present dimensions on January 9, 1886, and now includes only that part of congressional township 100, range 24, lying within the State of Iowa. Its area is about thirty square miles. On the north it is bounded by the State of Minnesota; on the east by Norway Township; on the south by Newton Township, and on the west by the Township of Eden.

The settlement of this township was retarded because of the fact that a large proportion of the land became the property of landsharks and speculators in early days, and they held the land at such prices as to be almost prohibitive to settlers of moderate means. The first actual settler was Ole P. Jordal, who settled near the present town of Scarsville in 1867. The next year Christian Ingebretson settled near Jordal and in 1869 Ole Oleson located on the southeast quarter of section 24. In 1870 A. K. Winge, Ole J. Synve and a man named Larson joined the colony, which was further augmented in 1871 by the arrival of Stephen Knudson and his father, with their families. Other early settlers were H. P. Moe, Erick Gullickson, Ole Drogsvold and E. D. Skinner.

At the first township election Stephen Knudson, A. K. Winge and Stephen Floe were chosen trustees; T. J. Falken, clerk; E. D. Skinner and J. T. Seeley, justices of the peace; Harry Larson and Stephen Severson, constables; Nels Nelson, assessor. J. T. Seeley and Stephen Severson failed to qualify for their respective offices and the township and but one justice and one constable until the fall of 1883.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad crosses the northeast corner of the township and the station of Scarsville is partly in Logan and partly in Norway Township. Three miles west of Scarsville was once a postoffice called Vinje, but with the introduction of free rural delivery it was discontinued.

In 1915 the population of Logan was 676, and in 1916 the property

valuation was \$273,941. There are six public schools, exclusive of the schools in the Scarville independent district.

#### MOUNT VALLEY TOWNSHIP

In the spring of 1879 the board of supervisors ordered that congressional township 98 north, range 23 west, be erected into a new civil township to be known as "Mount Valley," that name having been suggested by Peter Hanson, who was one of the early settlers. The name was no doubt selected because of the character of the surface, which is generally uneven and in some places rough and hilly. Two small creeks—Bear and Beaver—flow through the township, affording good natural drainage and water for stock. The former rises near the central part and takes a southwesterly course, crossing the western boundary near the southwest corner. Beaver Creek enters in section 1, makes a bend to the west, and leaves the county about a mile and a half north of the southeast corner. About two-thirds of the area was originally covered with timber, but about all of this that was suitable for lumber has been cut off and only small trees remain. The township is bounded on the north by Center Township; on the east by Worth County; on the south by Hancock County, and on the west by Forest Township.

The first settler was William Gilbert, who located on the northwest quarter of section 31 in the spring of 1855. He built a log cabin and developed a farm, but about 1863 sold out and went to Dakota. Very few located in the township until after the close of the Civil war. Charles Belt, Edward Dubeau, William Higginbotham and a few others came in 1865. Belt remained but a short time, Dubeau went to Kansas about 1872, but Mr. Higginbotham remained and was for years actively identified with Winnebago County affairs. He was a native of West Virginia, having been born near Wheeling, May 6, 1836. In 1843 his parents removed to Licking County, Ohio and two years later to Clark County, Illinois. During the Civil war he served as a private in Company F, Seventy-ninth Illinois Infantry, and took part in the Atlanta campaign of 1864 and the subsequent military operations in Tennessee until wounded at the battle of Franklin. Soon after receiving his honorable discharge he came to Mount Valley Township. He was one of the first trustees when the township was organized and was at one time a member of the board of supervisors.

Peter Hanson, who suggested the name for the township, came in 1866. He was born in Norway in 1834 and came to America when nineteen years of age, locating in Wisconsin and farming there until he came to Winnebago County. Other settlers of 1866 were: Nels

Olson, Harres Olson, Halvor Paulson and Nels Brones. During the next three years a number of Norwegians settled in Mount Valley, among them being Gunder H. Onstadt, Hans Johnson, Ole Bottleson, Lewis Jacobson, T. K. Rusley, Hans Rwgmyr and the Rulson family.

The first white child born in the township was John, son of William and Rachel Higginbotham, the date of his birth having been November 29, 1865. The first death was that of Mrs. Harres Olson in 1866, and the first marriage was that of Harres Olson and Anna Gurgunson in 1867. The first school was taught in 1866 by Amelia Steadman, in the house of Isaac Mereer. The first schoolhouse was built in the same year. The first township officers were as follows: William Higginbotham, Ole Bottleson and Thomas L. Fellen, trustees; S. K. Revland and B. K. Solverson, justices of the peace; Gunder H. Onstadt, constable. Mr. Onstadt was also the first postmaster in the township, having been appointed to that position when the postoffice of Mount Valley was established in 1877. The office has since been discontinued.

Mount Valley has no railroad, Forest City being the most convenient station. In 1915 the population was 969, and in 1916 the property was valued for tax purposes at \$339,988. There are nine public school districts in the township.

#### NEWTON TOWNSHIP

Prior to April, 1881, Newton formed a part of Center Township. Then O. T. Seavers presented a petition to the board of supervisors asking that a new township be established. The board granted the petition and ordered that congressional township 99, ranges 24, 25 and 26, should thereafter be known as Newton Township. As at first created, the township included the present townships of King and Buffalo. It was reduced to its present size by the establishment of King Township in January, 1886, and now embraces congressional township 99, range 24. It is bounded on the north by Logan Township; on the east by Center; on the south by Forest, and on the west by King. The township is mostly prairie and the surface is rolling, in some places being what might be termed hilly, but nearly all the land is capable of being cultivated. Lime Creek flows in a southerly direction across the southeast corner, and a small stream called Pike Run, which rises in King Township, flows in a southeasterly direction through the central part. The latter has been made a part of Drainage District No. 1.

The township is said to have derived its name from Newton H. Bailey, a son of John and Naney Bailey, early residents of the township. At the time the township was created the board of supervisors ordered the first election to be held at the Burnap school house, and

appointed H. O. Sunderland, N. B. Thompson and J. J. Sharp judges; Andrew Seevers and Newton H. Bailey, clerks. The election was held in October, 1881, and resulted in the election of the following officers: Newton H. Bailey, J. J. Sharp and H. O. Sunderland, trustees; N. B. Thompson, clerk; Michael Ragan and Andrew Seevers, justices of the peace; Gilbert Olson, assessor; C. O. Rose and Ole Johnson, constables; John Bailey, Iver Qualle and John Christianson, road supervisors.

The first settler was a man named Benson, who located in a small grove in section 36, in the early part of 1855. The place afterward became known as "Benson's Grove," and a postoffice by that name was established there in July, 1864, with J. B. Hill as postmaster. Mr. Benson lived in the county only about eight months, when he sold his claim to Jeptha Adams, who sold out and went to Minnesota in the spring of 1857.

During the summer of 1856 James Collier, James Redmire, Philip A. Pulver, Allen T. Cole and a man named Lee all settled in the township. Collier and Lee both tried to claim the same tract of land in section 36 until a prairie fire burned Lee's cabin and he went away, leaving his adversary in possession. In 1857 he sold the land to James Turner and located in Center Township.

James Redmire was a single man when he came to the county and boarded with Jeptha Adams. In August, 1856, the young man and Jane Adams, daughter of his host, went to Mason City, where they were married. That was the first wedding between residents of the township.

The first white child born in the township was a daughter of Rev. John B. Hill, who was born in the summer of 1859 and died before she was a year old. The first deaths were those of three men who were frozen to death in a blizzard in December, 1856. They were not residents, but were passing through when they encountered the storm which cost them their lives. Two of the men were named Porter and Snyder, but the name of the third man has been forgotten.

Between 1865 and 1870 quite a number of people located in Newton. Among them were John Millington, John and Newton Bailey, and Henry Bushnell. Millington went to Hancock County after a residence of about eighteen months and later removed to the southern part of the state. The Baileys settled in section 7, in what was long known as "Coon's Grove." They came from Cook County, Illinois. John Bailey was a bricklayer and shoemaker by trade. After the railroads were built he shipped the first cattle from Winnebago to Chicago.

The Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad crosses the southeast corner of Newton and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific crosses the southwest corner, but there is no station within the township borders. Leland,

on the former road, and Thompson, on the latter, are the most convenient railroad towns. In 1915 the population was 725, and in 1916 the assessed valuation of property was \$363,692. There are eight public schools in the township.

#### NORWAY TOWNSHIP

This township was first established on June 6, 1864. Its boundaries were changed on June 7, 1875, and then included all of the northern tier of townships. When Logan Township was created in April 1881, Norway was reduced to its present extent—congressional township 100, range 23. On the north it is bounded by the State of Minnesota; on the east by Worth County; on the south by Center Township, and on the west by the Township of Logan. Its area is about thirty square miles and it occupies the extreme northeast corner of the county. The name was derived from the nationality of the early settlers, most of whom came from Norway.

The surface is rolling prairie and the soil is exceedingly fertile. There was originally some timber along Lime Creek, but most of it has disappeared, the ax of the woodman and the sawmill having done their deadly work and converted most of the trees into fuel or lumber.

The first settler was William Tennis, who located in section 21, near the center of the township, in 1856. He was born in Allen County, Indiana, September 30, 1832. He came to Winnebago County in 1855, when he located a claim on Bear Creek, a short distance east of where Forest City is now situated. This claim he sold to Robert Clark in 1856 and moved up to what is now Norway Township. His cabin, which was the first house built in the township, was 18 by 24 feet and the one room served as kitchen, dining room, parlor and bed room. He obtained a title to his land in May, 1857, after which he spent about two years in his native state of Indiana. In 1859 he went to the "Pike's Peak Country," as Colorado was then called, and there became interested in some gold mines. During the next fifteen years he divided his time between his farm in Winnebago and his Colorado mines. His parents came with him to Iowa in 1856 and both lived to a ripe old age at their son's home in Norway Township.

Other settlers of 1856 were: Colburn Larson, Haus Knudson, Lewis Nelson, Archibald Murray, Jasper Frieker, Heinrich Larson and a man named Harvey. Joseph Tennis came in 1857 and between that time and 1860 several families settled in the township. Among them were Christian Anderson, John Iverson, Halvor Peterson, and another family of Larsons.

H. S. Botsford came in 1863 and took an active part in the organi-



RESIDENCE OF JOHN BACHELOR, THOMPSON



zation of the township when it was first established in 1864. The board ordered the first election to be held at the schoolhouse—there was then only one schoolhouse in the township—and appointed Mr. Botsford to post notices of the election. The election was held in October, 1864. Samuel Tannis, Halvor Peterson and John Iverson were elected trustees; H. S. Botsford, clerk; Samuel Tannis, justice of the peace.

The first ground was broken by William Tannis in 1856. The first child born in the township was Annie, daughter of Colburn Larson, in the spring of 1857. The first death was that of Mrs. C. L. Nelson, March 14, 1857. The first school was taught in the winter of 1859-60 by Mrs. Nellie Hinman, in a house that had been erected for the purpose the fall before in section 15. There are now five public school districts in the township, exclusive of the Scarville independent district and a small section in the southeastern part that is attached to the independent district of Lake Mills.

Norway has two lines of railroad. The Minneapolis & St. Louis runs along the eastern border. The little village of Norman, in the extreme northeast corner of the county, is a station on this road. The Chicago & Northwestern crosses the southern boundary in section 34 and runs in a southwesterly direction to section 19, where the village of Scarville is situated, part of it being in Norway and part in Logan Township. The stations of Norway and Scarville, and that of Lake Mills, which is just across the southern border, afford excellent shipping facilities to all parts of the township.

In 1915 the population, according to the state census, was 680 exclusive of the incorporated town of Scarville. The assessed valuation of property in 1916 was \$394,030.

## CHAPTER IV

### FOREST CITY

EARLY TOWNS—PLATTING OF FOREST CITY—FIRST SETTLER—FIRST EVENTS—  
EARLY BUSINESS—INCORPORATION—BANKS—FIRST LODGES—BUSINESS  
DIRECTORY, 1883—MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS—A SKETCH OF THE CITY,  
BY EUGENE SECOR—PUBLIC SPIRIT—LIBRARY.

#### EARLY TOWNS

In the early settlement of the West every state had its quota of land speculators, whose principal object seems to have been the laying out of towns, without the slightest regard to the geographical importance of the site or its possible future commercial advantages. The great aim of these speculators was to sell lots to new immigrants. An early Iowa writer (Hawkins Taylor in the Annals of Iowa) says: "Everybody we met had a town plat, and every man that had a town had a map of the county marked to suit his town as the county seat."

Many of these prospective towns were advertised throughout the East in a manner that did not reflect much credit upon the veracity of the advertisers. The proprietors of some of the towns along the Des Moines River sent out circulars showing a picture of the town, with a row of three or four story buildings along the river front, large side-wheel steamboats lying at the landing, etc., when the truth of the matter was that only an occasional steamboat of very light draft was able to navigate the Des Moines, and the town consisted of perhaps half a dozen small cabins. A few of these towns, by some fortunate circumstance, such as the location of the county seat, the development of a water power or the building of a railroad, have grown into considerable commercial centers. Others have continued to exist, but have never grown beyond the importance of a neighborhood trading point, a small railroad station, or a post village for a moderate sized district. And some have disappeared from the map altogether.

Fortunately for Winnebago County the mania for founding towns had about spent its force before the first settlements were made within its borders. The pioneers who settled and organized the county were more interested in the development of its natural resources than they

were in speculation. A few towns were laid out for purely speculative purposes, but those of the present day, with a few exceptions, are laid out upon railroad lines and have at least some excuse for existing. Many of them were founded after the railroads were built.

#### PLATTING OF FOREST CITY

Forest City was platted and laid out on the 14th, 15th and 16th of September, 1856, on the east half of Section 35, in Township 98 North, Range 24 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, at the request of Robert Clark. Lots on the plat were 132 feet long by 66 feet wide; the streets were 66 feet in width and the alleys 33 feet. Robert and Rebecca A. Clark were the proprietors and A. B. Miller was the surveyor. The plat was beautifully located on Lime Creek and the city proper was situated upon the hills which have often caused the community to be called the Hill City.

#### FIRST SETTLER

The first man to settle within the limits of the present Forest City was Robert Clark, who located on the northeast quarter of Section 35 in the spring of 1856. In March he laid out the plat of the town and in April built the first log cabin. This log shanty stood until 1870, when it was torn down.

The second log cabin was built by A. T. Cole in June, 1856. Mr. Cole was the first man to bring a family to Forest City. The next building was constructed of logs and was used to accommodate a store. It was erected in the fall of 1856 by Alexander Long on the later site of the City Bank. Long & Moreland kept store in this building for several months.

The fourth building was built for hotel purposes by Samuel Akers, in the fall of 1856. This hotel occupied a corner lot, in fact, two lots, for one of which Akers paid Mr. Cole the sum of \$5.

The next building was erected in November of the same year by Robert Clark. It was a frame structure, 18 by 24 feet. In 1861 Samuel Tennis purchased the building, moved it, and also used it as a hotel. Mr. Tennis owned the building for two or three years, then sold out to DeWitt C. Hayes, who refitted it into a home. J. C. Harwood became the next owner and he in turn sold out to John Plummer. The latter used it as a residence for several years, then transported it out of town and constructed a new home.

In 1857 quite a number of houses were built, among which were the residences of Nathan Jefford, Thomas Bearse and A. P. Harper.

During this year and the following, 1858, many structures were erected in Forest City. It was in October of the latter year that Forest City became the county seat of Winnebago County and naturally this gave a decided impetus to the growth of the town.

The following is a list of the citizens here at that time: Robert Clark, Charles H. Day B. F. Denslow, A. K. Curtis, N. G. Curtis, William Gilbert, B. A. Hill, Cornelius Baker, Avery Baker, John S. Blowers, A. T. Cole, James Church, Charles Church, James Lackore, William Lackore, George Lackore, C. H. Lackore, Harrison Beadle, George Beadle, John Maben, Charles Lutz, David Lutz, David Stancliff, Nathan Jeffords, Charles Bice, Thomas Bearse, A. P. Harper, Sylvester Baker, Sylvester Belcher, Martin Bumgardner, H. S. Botsford and George Strong.

Among those who came in 1859 were: David Secor, George Butts, John H. T. Ambrose, Simon, Johnathan and Edwin Trumbull and Ethan Ames. George Butts married Sarah Beadle in 1861 and moved to Des Moines.

#### FIRST EVENTS

The first child born in Forest City was Brentner Clark, son of Robert and Rebecca (Brentner) Clark, in the summer of 1858.

Shortly after the organization of the county in October, 1857, Judge Clark officiated at the first marriage ceremony, either in the city or county which was that of Sylvester Belcher and Viola Lackore.

The first death in Forest City was that of Samuel Jeffords in the fall of 1859. Tuberculosis caused his demise.

Reverend Hankins, a Methodist minister, preached the first sermon in a little building used by the county officers and called the "court house."

The first title to lots in the village was acquired by A. T. Cole. Robert Clark, owner of the town plat, offered to give two lots to every person who would build thereon and Cole was the first to take advantage of the offer.

Forest City postoffice was established in 1857 with Robert Clark as the first postmaster. The office was then held by Keeler Curtis, David Secor and J. W. Mahoney. In 1874 the office was made a money-order office and the first money-order was issued July 6, 1874 by Marcellus Halvorsen to J. W. Phillips of Clear Lake, the amount being \$6.

#### EARLY BUSINESS

During the spring and summer of 1856 Robert Clark kept a small stock of goods in his shanty on what was later the site of the Blennerhassett Block. Alexander Long and Joshua Moreland opened the

first regular store in November, 1856. They had a large stock of goods for that early day and their store was the headquarters for all trading for some time. They occupied the building constructed by Long. In December, 1856, Alexander Long was frozen to death and Moreland continued alone in the store until the following spring when the stock passed into the hands of Robert Clark. In the fall of 1857 Clark sold out to Blowers & Byford, who continued the business for nearly a year. About this time Byford pocketed all the money he could find and shook the dust of the town from his heels, leaving Blowers nothing but the residue of the stock, which the latter shortly afterwards sold to Robert Clark, who moved it to his own store. After six or eight months A. K. Curtis became the owner of the stock and removed it to a frame building which he had constructed for the purpose. He continued the business about one year, then sold out to C. H. Day.

In the spring of 1859 Martin Bumgardner opened up a store. He operated for about two years, then sold out to Day, who merged the stock with that which he had purchased from A. K. Curtis. In 1863 Day sold to a Mr. Cummings; after another year Cummings disposed of the business to A. L. Plummer. Plummer took into partnership a person of Hebrew nationality who soon departed, owing to the government draft about this time. In the spring of 1866 Hiram K. Landru became proprietor and after four months alone took in Samuel Herrick as partner. Within a few months Herrick retired from the firm and then Landru sold the entire stock to A. L. Plummer. Mr. Plummer added to the stock and built an addition. In 1868 B. A. Plummer purchased an interest in the store and the firm was Plummer Brothers until May 1, 1869, when J. W. Mahoney and B. A. Plummer became the owners. After a year and a half Mahoney became the sole proprietor.

The third general store was opened in 1866 by David Secor. He occupied one of the rooms in the court house for about seven months, then moved his goods to the Abbie Secor building, where he continued for about two and a half years. Solmer & Morgan then purchased the stock, added more goods, and had a man named Brown in charge for a year. The store then became the property of E. D. Hinman, who intended moving the stock to Lake Mills, but inside of two or three days he sold out to George Lackore. The latter erected a new corner building and after there running the business for a period of six months took in J. W. Fisher as partner. This partnership lasted about a year, when Mr. Lackore retired and J. W. Fisher became sole proprietor. Jasper Thompson soon afterwards purchased a half interest. In six months Thompson bought out his partner and continued the business as sole owner until the summer of 1883, when he sold out

to J. H. Lewis. Soon after the firm became Lewis & Skarie. About December 1, 1883, Jasper Thompson, holder of the mortgage, took possession of the store and closed out the stock.

In 1870 B. A. Plummer constructed a brick store and placed a stock of goods on sale. A few months later J. C. Harwood became a partner, but retired after eight months. At this time John Plummer became a partner and so continued until 1876, when he became sole proprietor, remaining so until 1879. Within the next year Myron Barton became owner.

In 1871 W. O. Hanson and A. A. Aiken brought a stock of goods from Decorah, Iowa, and opened up a store. Two years later Hanson bought his partner's interest and constructed a new building. Here he kept his general store for about a year, then sold out his dry goods and made a specialty of boots and shoes. One year later he sold out to Jasper Thompson, who merged the goods with his other stock.

Saibert & Stife opened a general store and continued in partnership for two years, when Saibert became sole owner. G. G. Onstadt was the next owner and in 1880 built a new building just north of the old site and took in John Isaacson as partner. The latter became sole proprietor two years later.

J. S. Olson and Nels George opened a general store in the George Building in 1874. They continued their partnership for about two years, then dissolved.

In 1877 Thomas Jacobs, O. B. Knudson and J. S. Olson formed a partnership and opened up a general store. This business afterward passed through many hands.

The above description of the early mercantile stores in Forest City will serve to show the unsettled condition of things at that time. It was a time when men were groping around, attempting to become settled and seeking the best vocation and investment. The stores were small and the amount of capital invested was extremely small in most cases. Business failures were plentiful, and for this reason each store passed through the hands of many owners and suffered various and varied fortunes.

In the spring of 1872 L. L. Brentner opened a general store in the Seeor building. He ran the business one and a half years, then sold out to James Pinckney, who closed out the dry goods and continued the store as a grocery. T. Jacobs was another grocer of this period.

In the autumn of 1870 Dr. W. H. Jones opened the first drug store. In 1872 the stock was sold to James Pinckney, who combined it with his grocery business. The latter erected a building for his store in the same year. A. Blennerhassett and P. O. Koto & Company were other druggists of this time.



OLD FOREST CITY SCHOOL  
Beside Barton's store in the early '70s.



The first hardware store in Forest City was established in 1870 by L. Stilson, in a little building next to the Summit office. Soon after his son, E. L., became a partner. The elder Stilson died in January, 1879, and then the son ran the business alone until the fall of '81, when H. C. Reed purchased an interest and the firm became Stilson & Reed.

The second hardware store was opened in 1876 by James Woodiwiss, who brought his stock here from Rockford, Iowa. William Larson afterward acquired a mortgage upon the stock and sold it out.

The first elevator was built in Forest City in 1879 by M. P. Hayes of Minneapolis, at a cost of \$5,000. The elevator had a capacity of about 25,000 bushels.

Dwight E. Johnson, of Rockford, Iowa, erected a building in 1879 and established two of his sons in business here, following the hardware line. They continued until 1882, when H. McCusker became the proprietor. Stilson & Reed and Wells & Company were the representatives of this business in 1883.

The first carriage and wagon shop was opened in 1860 by J. J. Barker, in the north part of the town. The first blacksmith shop in Forest City was opened in the spring of 1857 by A. T. Cole. After a year he sold out to Lemuel Laekore. John Trumbull began blacksmithing in his own shop sometime during the Civil War. Henry Grates next owned this shop and then came Robert Clark and A. L. Plummer as owners. Plummer sold the shop to Cole, who moved it out of town. In 1870 Lunsett & Jenson opened a blacksmith shop in connection with their carriage factory.

The first tailor shop was opened in 1870 by P. Anderson. L. S. Lewis and J. E. Howard established the agricultural implement business in 1879. O. H. Twito began in the same line the next year. The first lumber yard of any importance was established in the summer of 1878 by C. H. Lackore and E. A. Ames, who hauled their lumber all of the distance from Garner by teams.

#### INCORPORATION

From the incorporation records of the county in the recorder's office at Forest City the following is taken:

"In the circuit court of the state of Iowa, in and for Winnebago County. Be it remembered that on the 8th day of February, A. D., 1878, there was filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of the county and state aforesaid, the following petition for incorporation, to wit:

"To the Honorable Circuit Court of Winnebago County, Iowa.

"We, the undersigned citizens and qualified electors of the within

described territory, to wit: all of Section 35 and the west half of Section 36, Township 98, Range 24, petition your honorable circuit court to appoint commissioners for the purpose of incorporating said territory into the town of Forest City. That the number of inhabitants embraced within the limits of the territory above described is about 700. That a plat of said territory is hereunto attached and made a part hereof."

This petition for incorporation was signed by the following citizens:

Peter Lewis	John Law	M. C. Wheeler
W. C. Hanson	J. H. T. Ambrose	M. C. Halvorsen
H. C. Reed	A. A. Prescott	V. A. Jones
G. W. Elder	W. H. Jones	A. Pierce
L. C. Green	O. B. Knudson	J. A. Plummer
J. W. Mahoney	D. E. Skinner	John Conner
C. H. Lackore	H. W. Stowe	W. H. Fisher
G. K. Lien	J. E. Howard	T. C. Ransom
Eugene Secor	A. H. Chase	J. T. Thompson
W. H. May	Miles Plummer	B. A. Plummer
Thomas Jacobs	K. Knudson	L. H. Draper
C. C. Foss	Martin Cooper	E. L. Stilson
James Woodowiss	Nelson S. Lewis	J. D. Mason
J. H. Twito	George P. Smith	J. E. Anderson
William Lackore	M. Olmsted	J. C. Wright

Following is the further record of the incorporation proceedings:

STATE OF IOWA, }  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY. } ss.

Be it remembered that at a term of the circuit court of Iowa, holden in and for said county, at the court house in Forest City therein, on the 6th day of May, 1878, were present the Hon. C. T. Granger, sole presiding judge of said court, J. H. Twito, sheriff of said county, and W. O. Hanson, clerk of said court, when the following proceedings were had, done and entered of record, to wit:

IN THE MATTER OF }  
THE INCORPORATION }  
OF FOREST CITY, IA. }

Now, to wit, on the 7th day of May, A. D., 1878, a petition signed by forty-six citizens and qualified electors of Forest City was presented to the court by T. C. Ransom, Esq., attorney for the petitioners, praying the court for the appointment of five commissioners as provided by

statute, for the purpose of incorporating into the town of Forest City the territory described in said petition, which petition was granted by the court, and Eugene Secor, W. O. Hanson, J. W. Mahoney, B. A. Plummer and K. Knudson were appointed as such commissioners.

These commissioners met according to order and gave notice that an election would be held at the court house in Forest City on June 14, 1878, for the purpose of voting on the question of incorporation. The election was held as decided, with Secor, Mahoney and Knudson as judges and Hanson and Plummer as clerks. There were 96 votes cast altogether, of which 53 were in favor of incorporation and 43 against it. Thus, by a majority of ten votes Forest City became an incorporated city.

The first officers chosen under the new regime were: J. F. Thompson, mayor; S. K. Gregg, clerk; J. E. Howard, treasurer; Elwood Alexander, marshall; Eugene Secor, B. A. Plummer, C. H. Lackore, W. O. Hanson, H. Lunsett and J. W. Mahoney, councilmen.

#### BANKS

It is established upon very good authority that the first banking business in Forest City was done by Robert Clark. As the most convenient place, people went to his store to have checks cashed and drafts issued, but no regular banking organization was in effect until about the year 1877. Banking was carried on prior to this time, but not exclusively as a banking business. Robert Clark died August 12, 1876. After Judge Clark's death the banking business which he had conducted largely as a courtesy was taken over by his son-in-law, J. F. Thompson, who continued to operate the bank, known as the Winnebago County Bank, privately, until 1896, when a reorganization was effected under the name of the Winnebago State Bank. The partners in the undertaking were J. Thompson, J. F. Thompson, William Larabee and E. Huntington. Jasper Thompson became the first president after the reorganization, J. F. Thompson, vice president, and B. J. Thompson, cashier. Articles of incorporation were filed June 29, 1896, and the bank capitalized for \$50,000. The institution then occupied a small one-story brick building on the site of the present home. In 1899 the present two-story business block built of brick was constructed. The present officers of the Winnebago County State Bank are; J. F. Thompson, president; B. J. Thompson, vice president; M. M. Thompson, cashier; and Otto Beckjorden, assistant cashier. The deposits at this bank run about \$400,000.

The present First National Bank of Forest City was organized as such in the year 1891, succeeding the City Bank. The first officers

were: B. A. Plummer, president; Eugene Secor, vice president; David Secor, vice president; and W. O. Hanson, cashier. B. A. Plummer started to do a small private banking business as early as 1871, the business transacted being largely of the nature of that undertaken by Judge Clark, cashing checks and issuing drafts for the convenience of patrons. The firm of Secor Brothers & Law began in the land business in Forest City as early as 1861, when the senior member of the firm, David Secor transacted land deals; Eugene Secor entered the business in 1865, and John Law in 1875. The Forest City Bank was established in the spring of 1877 by B. A. Plummer and in January, 1882, the firm of Secor Brothers & Law acquired an interest in the business, which was removed to their building and the name changed to the City Bank. The firm then became Plummer, Secors & Law. W. O. Hanson afterward took over Law's interest in the institution by purchase. In 1915 the first National Bank was moved to its new home, the fine building erected that year at a cost of \$50,000. The bank is fitted with modern equipment and fixtures and is attractive as well as popular. The present officers are: B. A. Plummer, president; R. C. Plummer and M. Jane Plummer, vice presidents; W. O. Hanson, also vice president; John Olson, cashier; and W. C. Hangland, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$75,000; and the deposits about \$575,000.

The youngest banking institution in the city is the Forest City National Bank, which was established in 1895. G. N. Haugen is the president of this institution; C. H. Kelley, vice president; H. R. Cleophas, cashier; and O. E. Gunderson, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000 and the deposits about \$425,000.

#### FIRST LODGES

Truth Lodge, No. 213, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was established on the 9th of January, 1867. The members present were: Robert Clark, J. R. Burge, J. J. Otis, Austin Orvis, J. P. Gardner, S. W. Herrick and John S. Blowers. Robert Clark was the first worshipful master.

Forest City Lodge, No. 440, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized under a dispensation December 27, 1881; and the charter was granted October 19, 1882. The charter members were: J. D. Leland, Nels Thorson, M. C. Wheeler, J. E. Howard, Peter Metz, John J. Sharp, W. H. Fisher and W. H. Jones. J. D. Leland was the first noble grand.

Hayden Post, No. 151, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Forest City on March 8, 1883. The first officers elected were:

Martin Cooper, post commander; J. W. Mahoney, senior vice commander; John Isaacs, junior vice commander; T. J. Butcher, adjutant; W. W. Olmstead, officer of the day; W. R. Mattocks, officer of the guard; J. F. Thompson, quartermaster; Charles A. Clark, chaplain.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1883.

General Merchants—Myron Barton, Nels George, J. S. Olson & Son, John Isaacs, J. W. Mahoney.

Drug Stores—A. Blennerhassett, P. O. Koto & Company, James Pinckney.

Hardware—Stilson & Reed and Wells & Company.

Groceries—T. Jacobs and James Pinckney.

Banks—Winnebago County Bank and City Bank.

Bookstore—M. H. and S. F. Johnson.

Clothing—Clark Brothers & Company.

Boots and shoes—John J. Anderson.

Jewelry—James S. Jacobson and John P. Haadeland.

Harness—F. S. Spofford and R. H. Bahner.

Furniture—D. W. Adron.

Restaurant and bakery—William Spicer and Paul Anderson.

Millinery—Abbie J. Secor and L. E. Ames.

Shoe shops—John J. Anderson and K. Knudson.

Tailor shops—O. C. Steen and P. Anderson.

Meat markets—Frank Farlow, L. Larson and J. Clemenson.

Flour and feed—Paul Anderson and Wickwire & Reed.

Newspapers—Winnebago Summit, A. H. Chase; Winnebago Review, H. M. Halvorsen.

Attorneys—Martin Cooper, Ransom & Olmstead, J. E. Anderson, David Secor, W. H. Fisher, C. L. Nelson, J. F. Thompson and J. T. Lattimore.

Physicians—Jones & Irish, J. A. Hewett, J. W. David, and W. R. Franklin.

Lands, loans, real estate—Secor Bros. & Law, Thompson Brothers and J. E. Anderson & Company.

Hotels—Clark House and Pinckney House.

Saloons—J. M. Quam, Miller & West and H. C. Holland.

Livery—H. Seeley and James Pinckney.

Draymen—Babbitt Brothers and G. G. Macomber.

Painters—J. J. Dale and W. A. Phelps.

Building contractors—Lackore & Ames, Benjamin Johnson and Leander Farlow.

Cattle buyer and shipper—John A. Plummer.

Lumber—C. H. Laekore, E. J. Joice and P. Poulson.  
Coal and wood—Babbitt Brothers.

#### MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

In the matter of public improvements Forest City has advanced with rapid strides. From the small town, with dirt streets and straggling rows of frame business houses, it has grown to a well ordered, attractive and proud city. Brick and stone buildings line streets well paved; electric lights and curb electroliers add the ornamental touch; an adequate sewerage system disposes of the waste accumulation of the city; the business houses and stores of the city are metropolitan in appearance and the residence streets are attractive and beautiful.

Public utilities were first established in 1894, when water and electric light plants were installed. In a little over three months after the project was conceived an electric light plant was in operation, known by the name of the Forest City Electric Light and Power Company. It was owned and operated by a home company. About two miles of pole line, an ample power house with a 75-horse power boiler and engine, a 30 arc dynamo and 600 candle power incandescent dynamo comprised the first plant. The company was incorporated and articles filed October 6, 1894; the incorporators were: J. F. Thompson, N. P. Hanson, T. F. Danaher, Thomas Jacobs, John Lundberg, A. O. Gjellefold, L. Larson, M. Barton, C. L. Prescott, Ida Fuller, S. H. Larson, John Daniels, C. H. Lackore, and N. H. Bailey. The capital stock was placed at \$25,000. Forest City is now supplied with electricity by the Northern Iowa Light and Power Company, a corporation of wide extent.

The vote in 1894 having authorized the town council to erect and maintain waterworks, the contract was let to erect a standpipe and put in mains, and as soon as the frost had disappeared in the spring of 1895 work began. The system was completed about July 1st. By this public enterprise a much needed protection from fire was provided and an ample supply of pure spring water for household use was made accessible. The standpipe, 100 feet high, was erected on the highest point in the city.

#### A SKETCH OF THE CITY

The following sketch of the beginning and growth of Forest City is from the pen of Mr. Eugene Seeor, and was prepared for the historical edition of the Winnebago Summit, September 11, 1895:

“In 1856 a party of men drove up from Mason City to lay out the town plat of what is now known as Forest City. Up to that time, and

indeed for some time afterwards, the settlement was known as the 'Big Brush.' The surveying party consisted of Robert Clark, one of the prospective proprietors of the prospective town site, A. B. Miller, surveyor, Horace Bronson and Henry Allen. They were assisted by A. T. Cole, who acted as one of the chainmen. They ran a few lines, stuck a few stakes and returned to Mason City. A. T. Cole was the only one of the party who lived in the county at that time. He, with his wife, lived just north of the town site. He shortly moved into the newly laid out 'city' and says his wife was the first white woman who resided within the town plat. Robert Clark moved here in April, 1856, built a log shanty and 'baeched it.'

"I said the town site was laid out in March, 1856. My authority is A. T. Cole. He says that they had to shovel the snow off in places to drive stakes. But according to the certificate of A. B. Miller, the surveyor, which is of record, 'Forest City was laid out on the 14th, 15th and 16th days of September, 1856, upon the east half of Section 35, Township 98, Range 24—at the request of Robert Clark, esq.,' and it was not dedicated to public use until some time after. Robert Clark and wife executed their certificate of dedication August 8, 1857, and Friend Burt, who obtained title to the northeast quarter of Section 35, September 27, 1858.

"It is not strange that so long a time elapsed before completion of the papers necessary to complete the title of the town plat, as the land upon which the town is located was not entered until May 15, 1857. Robert Clark entered the northeast quarter and Horace Bronson the southeast quarter. The first deed recorded conveying property in the new town was dated September 27, 1858.

"The name of the town was first suggested by J. S. Church because of the fine timber skirting the settlement on the east and north. To those who have recently become residents, it is almost incredible that fine black walnut timber was abundant in those forests and that many of the first dwellings were finished with that native product. Black walnut fence posts, too, were common.

"Pine lumber had to be wagoned from McGregor or Dubuque and was a luxury not to be thought of for many years. A saw-mill was the first industry introduced. Mr. Cole says that in 1856 Judge Clark offered him all of Block 48 if he would build on it and entertain travelers. This he agreed to do, but before the log house was raised he sold his chance for \$5 worth of logs.

"But in 1860 things began to boom. A fine, large, two-story, brick school house was built near the standpipe. Judge Clark also built a brick residence. The material for these buildings was dug on Block 31 near the residence of J. F. Thompson. The excavation

whence the clay was taken has long since been refilled, but was a familiar sight to the old residents for many years.

“A new era began with the building of the M. & St. L. Railroad. This project was conceived and carried out by Forest City business men. The Minneapolis road had been extended to Albert Lea, but its projectors had no thought of extending through this town. But a few men here laid their heads together, formed a local company, got a 5% tax voted to the home corporation and then sent a delegation to Minneapolis to interview President W. D. Washburn. After a good deal of hard work and personal expenditures that never returned, the road was built and on the 10th day of December, 1879, the first passenger train brought the officers of the M. & St. L. Railway from Minneapolis and a grand jubilee was held in honor of the event. The officers of the local company and the principal ones who brought about this happy consummation were David Secor, president; J. W. Mahoney, secretary, and J. Thompson, treasurer. These men, supported by the generous and progressive citizens of the town and county, succeeded in securing a public enterprise which assured the permanence of the town and prosperity of the county.

“Later another railroad project was conceived by the citizens of Forest City, which, however, did not materialize although considerable time and money were spent in the effort. This was the C. I. & D., better known as the ‘Slippery Elm.’ But if we did not get what we started after, we finally got the C. R. & N. (now C. R. I. & P.)

“In April, 1891, at a citizens’ meeting called for the purpose of discussing future railroad prospects and to decide what action, if any, the people of Forest City ought to take to protect their interests in railroad matters, it was decided to form a local railway company for the purpose of procuring right of way, local aid, etc., if necessary. This resulted in filing articles of incorporation of the Chicago and Iowa Western Railway Company. The following citizens of the town were made members of the local company: J. Thompson, president and general manager; B. A. Plummer, first vice president; C. H. Kelley, second vice president; O. A. Olson, superintendent; J. W. Mahoney, treasurer; Eugene Secor, secretary; and J. F. Thompson, solicitor. The board of directors from Forest City was comprised of the following: J. Thompson, B. A. Plummer, C. H. Kelley, Eugene Secor, O. A. Olson, J. W. Mahoney, J. F. Thompson, M. Barton, W. O. Hanson, T. Jacobs, C. Isaacs and P. O. Koto. This company was instrumental in building the line from Forest City to Armstrong and after its completion turned it over to the B. C. R. & N. The line to Garner was afterward straightened, having run to Madison, and the whole is now a part of the Rock Island lines.”



FIRST GOOD STORE IN FOREST CITY

Built by J. W. Mahoney in the early '70s. Hand carved trimming by Lee Farlow, the contractor who erected the building.



## PUBLIC SPIRIT

Public spirit in Forest City has always been much in evidence, as proved by the energetic and capable treatment of various civic and municipal questions which have arisen. Not the least factor in this spirit has been the establishment of associations for the betterment of the town. One of the first of these was the Forest City Club, incorporated March 2, 1895; objects, "charitable, educational, social and recreative." The first officers of this association were: George D. Peters, president; C. J. Thompson, secretary; O. A. Olson, treasurer; W. Northrop, G. H. Babbitt, G. I. Koto, directors. The members signing the articles of incorporation were: George H. Babbitt, Homer A. Brown, E. H. Chase, T. F. Danaher, S. C. Gardner, G. S. Gilbertson, C. H. Grunver, H. M. Hanson, J. E. Howard, H. R. Irish, C. A. Isaacs, C. H. Kelley, G. I. Koto, T. M. Lewis, G. G. Lincoln, G. A. Lyon, M. H. Moser, W. Northrop, O. A. Olson, C. L. Prescott, George D. Peters, P. A. Sixerud, B. J. Thompson, C. J. Thompson, Frank J. Ward.

The Forest City Commercial Club was incorporated and articles of incorporation filed March 16, 1900. This club was organized for the "advancement of moral social, educational and business interests of Forest City, Iowa, and the encouragement of manufacturers and business enterprises." The first officers were: M. Barton, president; J. J. Sharp, vice president; T. Jacobs, treasurer; B. J. Thompson, secretary; C. J. Thompson, H. R. Irish, J. Thompson, George D. Peters, and Eugene Secor, directors.

The Forest City Improvement Association filed articles of incorporation March 27, 1906.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Forest City Public Library Association was organized and articles of incorporation filed June 7, 1897. These articles were signed by B. A. Plummer, L. O. Hatch, B. J. Thompson, T. Jacobs, H. R. Irish, Mrs. E. W. Virden and Mrs. E. Perkins. These mentioned composed the first board of directors. In 1899 a building for the library was constructed and it was formally opened at 8 P. M., September 14, 1889. The building, street and court house grounds were brilliantly illuminated for the occasion and the Forest City band supplied the music. The board of directors turned the building over to the city, and the same was accepted by the mayor. This public library is an appropriate monument to the generosity and efforts of the citizens who made it possible. The shelves of the library are well filled with standard works of all kinds, fiction and magazines, and is of valuable assistance to the public schools of the city.

## CHAPTER V

### OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES

LAKE MILLS—THE OLD MILL—PLATTING—INCORPORATION—UTILITIES—  
BANKS—EARLY LODGES—BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1883—RAILROAD IN-  
FLUENCE—MISCELLANEOUS—BUFFALO CENTER—PLATTING—INCORPO-  
RATION — BANKS — THOMPSON — PLATTING — INCORPORATION — BANKS —  
LELAND—RAKE—SCARVILLE—OTHER TOWNS.

#### LAKE MILLS

The plat of the town of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, was filed at the county recorder's office December 31, 1869 by Charles D. and Janet Smith, proprietors. The town itself was laid out on the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter and the south half of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 2 in Township 99, Range 23 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian.

The first settler in the vicinity of Lake Mills was Joshua Thomas, who came here with his family in 1855 and located on what was known later as the Thomas farm, a part of which is now included in the corporation of Lake Mills. John Anderson came next in 1856 and located on Section 2, and the original town plat of fifteen acres was a part of this farm.

#### THE OLD MILL

In 1864 there was constructed a grist mill at Lake Mills, or Slauchville, as the town was then called. In 1862 and 1863 the settlers of the surrounding country demanded a grist mill which could be used the entire year, as about all the water mills were either dry or frozen up almost every winter, obliging the people to carry their grain about forty miles to get it transformed into flower. Some advanced the idea of having a steam mill built at Bristol, Worth County. In the summer of 1863 S. D. Wadsworth proposed to undertake the task, provided the citizens in and about Bristol would give the sum of \$1,000 and help get the timber on the ground for the construction. This proposition was not accepted by the town of Bristol, the residents of that place believing that Wadsworth should supply the funds himself for his

own business. In the early part of 1864 a delegation of men from Slauchville (Lake Mills) called on Wadsworth at Bristol and offered him double the amount of money and work. Wadsworth willingly accepted this offer and a contract was made. C. D. Smith then took a quarter interest and the work of getting the material on the ground and of building began. The saw-mill was put into operation about the first of September of the same year. The mill for grinding first commenced doing custom work in the making of flour about the first of February, 1865.

Then the business of the country for miles around began to come to Slauchville and it was not long before the community felt sufficiently prosperous to demand a postoffice. Slauchville was not altogether agreeable as a name, so Dewell Martin suggested the name of Lake Mills, the derivation being evident. The mill which had made the fortunes of the town was burned in 1871, the year of the Chicago fire, but was immediately rebuilt. The firm of Wadsworth & Smith shortly afterwards transferred the business to Winslow & Conley.

C. D. Smith purchased the original town plat of fifteen acres of E. D. Hinman and had B. K. Walker lay out the town into lots, blocks, streets and alleys.

The first building erected on the town site was a store by E. D. Hinman, although the town had not then been surveyed and platted. After the survey was made the store was found to be partly in the street and was accordingly moved back. L. E. Crowell was the first merchant to sell goods in this store. Most of the merchandise then delivered over the counter to buyers had to be hauled from Austin, Owatonna and McGregor.

In 1866 S. D. Wadsworth opened a general store in an old log school house which had been constructed several years before. He continued the business here until 1867, then moved it to his dwelling, selling out after four years to W. B. Todd. The latter closed out the business three years later.

The next general store was opened in 1868 by Lewis Crowell. He continued the business about one year, then sold out to Lemuel Stilson, who sold in about a year to Abel Porter. One year later Mr. Porter disposed of the stock and quit the business.

In 1869 Larson & Company, from Osage, Iowa, opened a general store in Lake Mills. After two years they erected a building. Ole Sear was a partner in this concern, but withdrew after ten years and purchased the business of Wadsworth & Company, which he ran alone until 1883, then formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, N. I. Nelson, under the firm name of Sear & Nelson.

The next general stock was opened in 1873 by E. L. Johnson, in the

building vacated by Larson & Company. Mr. Johnson continued in the business about one year, then sold out to K. H. Knudson, who closed out the stock six months later.

In the early days nearly all of the stores carried limited stocks of hardware, and it was not until 1872 that an exclusive hardware store was established. In that year Lemuel Stilson engaged in that trade at Lake Mills, but shortly moved to Forest City.

The first grocery store was opened in 1875 by K. H. Knudson. He afterward merged his stock in the firm of Wadsworth & Knudson, which, as mentioned before, was purchased by Ole Sear.

The first furniture store was established in 1878 by Abel Porter. In 1879 William Wilson became proprietor of the business, and in turn sold out to J. B. Wilson.

Lake Mills postoffice was established in 1864, with S. D. Wadsworth as postmaster.

The first Scandinavians in Lake Mills were the members of nine families who came to the vicinity about 1856. Among them were Oliver Peterson, Colburn Larson, John Johnson, H. J. Knudson, John Iverson, Ch. Anderson and Louis Nelson.

The first death in the town was that of Joshua Thomas in 1858. The first birth was that of a daughter of Rev. J. B. Hill in 1859, her death occurring the same year. The first couple married were Thomas Blair and Lovica Anderson in 1860.

#### INCORPORATION

In 1880, the town of Lake Mills, having attained a population of 408 inhabitants, thought seriously of forming itself into a body corporate. The necessary proceedings were had and on June 7, 1880 an election was held at the Lake Mills school house upon the question of incorporating the town. J. M. Hull, H. A. Rowland and C. D. Smith were the judges of the election; and John F. Kean and W. A. Chapman, clerks. There were forty-nine votes cast in favor of the incorporation of the town and only four polled against it.

The petition for incorporation which was presented to the court described the incorporated portion as follows: "Commencing at the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 2, thence one mile west to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 3, thence one mile south to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 10, thence one mile east to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 11, thence one mile north to the place of beginning, all in Township 99, Range 23."

The petition for incorporation was signed by the following named citizens: J. M. Hull, E. D. Hinman, C. D. Smith, S. D. Wadsworth, K. H. Knudson, A. Anderson, John F. Kean, F. B. Southwick, L. L. Olson, L. S. Anderson, L. B. Nerby, W. H. Douglas, E. F. Thompson, Cahel Martin, A. N. Hill, H. A. Camp, Ed. Henderson, L. R. Hutchinson, William Smith, O. J. Conklin, K. T. Johnson, O. L. Brunsold, G. H. Corser, William Larson, O. S. Olson, Chr. J. B. Hirsch, O. Osmundson, J. M. Henderson, H. S. Peterson, John J. Merrill and H. W. Rowland.

#### UTILITIES

Until the year 1895 the people of Lake Mills were without adequate protection from fire by an established system of water supply. In that year, however, the people decided by ballot to erect a waterworks system, the city council bought the site, and the contract for laying the mains and constructing the plant was let. In 1896 the firm of Winslow & Conley dug the first well.

About the same time provision was made for the installation of an electric lighting plant in Lake Mills. The same firm of Winslow & Conley was granted a twenty year franchise, and they awarded the contract for the erection of a complete electric light plant to C. G. Edwards, of Albert Lea, Minnesota. The first plant was a two-wire, direct current system and had a capacity of 400 sixteen candle power incandescent lamps.

#### BANKS

The early history of banking in the city of Lake Mills is chiefly concerned with the history of two banks. A bank known as the Lake Mills Exchange Bank was established in 1880. In 1891 a brick block was erected by the bank. The other institution of finance was the Lake Mills Bank. The organization of this bank took place in July, 1886, when Secors, Law & Plummer, the well known banking firm of Forest City, formed a partnership with P. M. Joice, under the firm name of P. M. Joice & Company. They at once began the erection of a solid brick building, which was the first of its kind in Lake Mills. The bank opened its doors for business October 7, 1886. Prior to coming to Lake Mills, Mr. Joice had for seven years been employed in the Winnebago County Bank at Forest City. On September 1, 1890, Mr. Joice purchased the interests of David Secor and B. A. Plummer.

The present Farmers State Bank of Lake Mills was organized March 5, 1898, with the following first officers: J. B. Lloyd, president; J. B. Keeler, vice president; John R. Larson, cashier. Articles of incorporation were filed February 8, 1898, signed by the above, also

Alfred Burdick and C. D. Smith. The first and present capital stock of the bank is \$25,000. The deposits average about \$425,000. The present officers are: S. H. Larson, president; Ole Hovie, vice president; T. S. Tweed, cashier; and C. W. Streeter, assistant cashier.

The First National Bank of Lake Mills was organized in February, 1898, with the following officers; J. C. Williams, president; G. S. Gilbertson, vice president; B. H. Thomas, cashier; and S. H. Larson, assistant cashier. On August 1, 1898 the new home of the institution on Main Street was opened for business. The present officers are: C. E. Paulson, president; O. V. Eckert, vice president; J. M. Tapager, cashier; and T. J. Severson, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000; and the deposits amount to about \$300,000.

The Farmers State Bank was the successor of the Lake Mills Exchange Bank.

#### EARLY LODGES

The first meeting in Lake Mills of the Masonic fraternity as a lodge was held on the evening of April 4, 1887. Petition had been made by sixteen members of the fraternity to form a lodge and a dispensation had been granted under date of March 18, 1887. Regular and special meetings were held and quite a number of additions were made to the roll of members during the probational period. On June 5, 1888, Arion Lodge, No. 488, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was regularly instituted by a charter from the grand lodge of Iowa.

Sully Post, No. 180, Grand Army of the Republic, was installed by the acting adjutant general of the Iowa Department on June 18, 1893, starting out with twenty charter members.

Aurora Lodge, No. 412, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted July 22, 1880. M. E. C. Miller acted as the installing officer. The charter members of this lodge were: Charles J. B. Hirsch, John T. Kean, O. J. Conklin, L. L. Olson, and A. Anderson. At the first meeting the following candidates were voted upon favorably: J. M. Hull, Joseph Tennis and F. B. Southwick. At a meeting held September 2, 1880, Ole Sear, K. H. Knudson, C. D. Smith and W. A. Chapman were balloted for favorably.

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1883.

General merchants—Ole Sear, Southwick & Nelson, William Larson and Oliver Nelson.

Drug stores—Levi B. Nerby and Keeler & Parker.

Grocery—Perry Brown.

Hardware—Henderson Brothers and F. C. Hall.

Bank—Pickering, Hartley & Hardwood.

Newspaper—Independent Herald, W. K. Gregg.  
Attorneys—W. A. Chapman and E. F. Thompson.  
Physicians—J. M. Hull, C. E. Keeler and W. H. Gundlach.  
Jewelry stores—N. A. Smith and Ole Bergland.  
Furniture—J. B. Wilson.  
Photographer—T. J. Helgeson.  
Millinery—Mrs. Emma Weseott.  
Hotels—Barnett House, J. O. Barnett; Scandinavian Hotel, Mrs. L. Myhre.  
Restaurant—Andrew Simmons.  
Saloons—E. & O. Olson, H. T. Johnson, P. H. Garvey and Ole Osmundson.  
Livery stable—H. J. Rowland.  
Wagon shop—D. W. Cook.  
Butcher—John Burgeson.  
Barber—George Rowland.  
Blacksmith shops—D. W. Cook, S. L. Tone, Allen Smart and E. Christiansen.  
Agricultural implements—Eckert & Williams and Twito & Tweed.  
Grain merchants—Eckert & Williams, E. D. Hinman and H. Rowell.  
Building contractors—David Adams, F. Stull and B. Johnson.  
Painter—W. F. Brown.  
Mills—Lake Mills flouring mill, Winslow & Conley; carding mill, D. N. Hill.  
Churches—Methodist Episcopal and Christian.

#### RAILROAD INFLUENCE

Not a little of the success of the city of Lake Mills must be attributed to the coming of the railroads. When the steel rails were laid trade with other markets was made easy and the business of the town began to grow. The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad was built in the year 1879. The object in extending the road through this region of the country was to connect the coal fields to the south with the business interests of the north. W. D. Washburn, of Minneapolis, came here and consulted with the business men of the county. Something of the organization of an independent railroad company at Forest City and the relation of it to the M. & St. L. is described in the chapter on Forest City. The road was put through to Forest City in the fall of the year 1879 and the first passenger train went through on December 3d.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad constructed their line through the city of Lake Mills in 1899. The construction train first reached this point March 1st.

## MISCELLANEOUS

To the original plat of Lake Mills many additions have been made, surveyed, recorded and all because of the growth of the population and the necessity for extension of the city limits. Among the more important of these additions are: Hinman's Addition, June 29, 1896; Nelson & Hylbak's Addition, June 12, 1913; and the Irving Place Addition, March 13, 1914.

The Lake Mills Club, an organization for "charitable, educational, social and recreative" purposes, was incorporated August 13, 1898. P. A. Helgeson was the first president.

## BUFFALO CENTER

Located in Buffalo Township, twenty miles northwest of Forest City, on the Rock Island Railroad, is the town of Buffalo Center, one of the most enterprising and energetic of the smaller cities of the state. The town has a system of waterworks, an electric lighting plant, two banks, a newspaper, fire department, four general stores, six churches, and a population of near 1,000 people.

The plat of Buffalo Center was first filed July 25, 1892, by J. Thompson, Clara K. Thompson, J. F. Thompson, Julia A. Thompson, C. H. and F. L. Kelley, proprietors. J. H. T. Ambrose was the surveyor of the town plat, at the request of the above. This plat consisted of the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 99, Range 26 West. It has now been vacated, however.

On July 30, 1894 there was filed in the county recorder's office a second plat of Buffalo Center. This comprised a part of the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 99, Range 26 West, also a part of the northwest quarter of Section 20 in the same township and range. Frank H. Fisk surveyed this new plat at the request of the Buffalo Center State Bank.

On January 18, 1894, a petition was filed asking for the incorporation of the city of Buffalo Center, also claiming a population at the time of 350 people. The petition was signed by the following: J. S. Ulland, M. Jackman, B. A. Pannkuk, L. B. Draper, R. Rowley, E. M. Wilson, Charles S. Dempsey, Knute H. Helle, L. E. Trefz, Ed. Staadt, E. J. Wood, E. E. Secor, J. J. Roach, M. O. Smith, G. P. Dempsey, T. O. Thorson, John Tegland, E. W. Russell, P. E. Lyon, P. J. Johnson, E. M. Bakke, N. P. Johnson, G. A. Jorgenson, O. G. Bugton, Frank Wilson, Albert Nash, J. W. Woodcock, C. E. Anderson, John S. Daum, A. Cady, O. A. Sawdey, H. G. Gardner, T. S. V. Wrollie, L. A. Hauge, R. Johnson, A. M. Gunder, Sam Nelson, N. A. Dreesman, L. H. Got-



BANK OF BUFFALO CENTER

Built in 1893. Burned 1898.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, BUFFALO CENTER

Built in 1896; rebuilt 1912.



MAIN STREET, NORTH, BUFFALO CENTER



walt, William Kane, G. K. Lien, M. Jackman, O. M. Greinder, L. M. Slaba and Ord Curtis. E. E. Secor, J. S. Ulland, L. M. Slaba, George Dempsey and H. G. Gardner were appointed commissioners of election by the court. The election to determine the question of incorporation was held February 17, 1894 and resulted in a vote of 106 to 2 in favor of it.

A bank called the Buffalo Center Savings Bank was incorporated December 17, 1892, with a capital stock of \$12,000. The first directors were: B. A. Plummer, J. Thompson, John Law, G. S. Gilbertson, J. F. Thompson, E. E. Secor, C. J. Thompson and C. H. Kelley. This bank filed dissolution proceedings April 18, 1894, and the liabilities were assumed by the Buffalo Center State Bank. The Buffalo Center State Bank was incorporated January 8, 1894 by the following; J. Thompson, B. A. Plummer, J. F. Thompson, C. H. Kelley, K. K. Hellernd, C. J. Thompson, E. E. Secor and G. S. Gilbertson, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The Citizens State Bank of Buffalo Center was incorporated April 7, 1898, for \$30,000 by the following: J. Thompson, J. F. Thompson, B. J. Thompson, T. Jacobs and P. M. Joice.

The Farmers Trust & Savings Bank was incorporated May 21, 1914, for \$20,000, with the following officers: J. J. McGuire, president; E. B. Ankes, vice president; F. L. Sharon, cashier; C. I. Anderson and H. D. Feldiek, directors. E. E. Sapp is now assistant cashier. The capital stock is the same at present and the deposits amount to about \$250,000.

The First National Bank, dating from 1898, is officered by the following: C. W. Gadd, president; J. W. Woodeock, vice president; J. J. Guyer, cashier; B. McDermott, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000 and the deposits amount to about \$250,000.

#### THOMPSON

The city of Thompson, with a population of close to 575 people, is located on the Rock Island Railroad, in King Township, fourteen miles northwest of Forest City. It has two banks, a newspaper, five general stores and other places of business such as drug stores, hardware stores, elevators, etc.

The plat of Thompson was filed March 24, 1892. The survey was made on the 22d and 23d of March, 1892, by Frank N. Pitkin, at the request of J. F. Thompson, vice president of the Chicago and Iowa Western Land and Town Lot Company. Frank Thompson, Steve H. Pitkin, Mortimer Cooper and O. T. Severs were assistants on the survey. The survey was described as follows: Beginning at a point 1241 feet east of the northwest corner of Section 26, Township 99, Range 25

West and on the north line of the said Section 26, thence south 1321 feet, thence east 1399 feet, thence north 1322 feet to the United States quarter post, thence west on section line 1399 feet to the place of beginning. A second plat filing was made June 11, 1892, describing the land as the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 23 and the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 26, Township 99, Range 25.

On March 17, 1894, there was filed a petition asking for the incorporation of Thompson. This position was signed by the following: H. G. Beadle, C. P. Jessen, M. J. Cunningham, H. Erickson, E. S. White, Ernest Siljenberg, O. G. Beckjorden, T. M. Wilkison, L. F. Ozmun, Nels J. Wasley, C. J. Shauger, J. M. Johnson, Jr., G. B. Johnson, J. F. Lynch, L. A. Grant, M. O'Neil, A. Helm, T. C. Knapp, J. L. Johnstone, Ole Jerde, S. C. Castleman, Hans Anderson, H. L. Hultz, E. E. Thompson, O. Finstad, F. W. Thompson, Ole Berge, W. T. Kendall, L. L. Spencer, Eugene Reiley, E. E. Brewster, F. M. Linehan, L. T. Brethaner, M. L. Thorsheim, W. E. Grant, John Ellickson, H. C. Mortenson, James Ellickson, C. T. Fletcher, George Wilkison, J. T. Hyde, and Thomas Nugent. The petition set forth the fact that the population of Thompson at that time was fully 230 people. E. E. Brewster, J. F. Lynch, J. L. Johnstone, W. T. Kendall and J. M. Johnson were appointed commissioners to hold the election for the purpose of deciding the question of incorporation. This election was held according to statutes February 15, 1894. For incorporation there were cast 47 votes and against it only 3 votes. The order of the court for incorporation was dated February 24, 1894.

The Farmers Savings Bank of Thompson was incorporated and articles filed August 31, 1892, by the following: G. W. Beadle, G. R. Maben, S. C. Gardner, James Ellickson and M. Johnson. The capital stock was placed at \$10,000.

The State Bank of Thompson filed articles of incorporation October 31, 1896, with a stock of \$30,000. J. F. Thompson was the first president; F. N. Vaughan, vice president; and W. B. Vaughan, cashier. The articles were also signed by J. Thompson, B. J. Thompson, E. Huntington, William Larrabee, I. N. Perry and Josiah Little. The present officers are: B. J. Thompson, president, J. O. Osmundson, vice president; G. Gordon, cashier; and H. W. Nelson, assistant cashier. The capital stock is still \$30,000 and the deposits amount to \$150,000.

The First National Bank of Thompson, which dates from 1897, is now officered by the following named: N. E. Isaacs, president; C. Larson, vice president; T. E. Isaacson, cashier; L. E. Isaacs, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000 and the deposits average \$230,000.

## LELAND

Leland is a town of 200 people, on the M. & St. L. Railroad in Forest Township.

The official plat of the town of Leland was filed July 15, 1887. The town was laid out by the county surveyor, L. T. Thompson, by direction of John D. Leland, on the southeast quarter of the northeast fractional quarter of Section 2, Township 98, Range 24 West. The survey of this forty acres was made on July 8 and 9, 1887.

The first structure on the site of the town was a hotel building erected in 1880 by Ole Ambrosen for keeping the crew of men then working on the M. & St. L. Railway. About the same time Matt Johnson moved the store building from the original Benson's Grove to the location of the present town. Pat Mahar rented this building and there kept the first store in the town, succeeded immediately by Ole Michaelson and J. D. Leland. T. J. Butcher erected the first residence. The postoffice was moved from Benson's Grove by the efforts of Mr. Leland and the name changed to Lelandsburg, which has since been contracted to simply Leland.

On December 31, 1894, swearing a population of 215 people, the citizens of Leland presented to the courts a petition, praying for incorporation. The petition was signed by: Julius Jasperson, G. H. Onstad, P. E. Branstad, J. H. Johnson, M. Michaelson, George Napper, W. P. Buren, O. Michaelson, Henry Smith, A. E. Wilcox, George W. Brown, H. S. Onstad, A. Anderson, George Anderson, Ole Peterson, O. F. Clement, R. Rierson, Nels Quam, Andrew Johnson, J. Winkelman, Charles F. Jenks, Harald Haraldson, T. L. Hallam, F. T. Maidens, Charles Isaacs, Albert Thompson, R. L. De France, F. J. Bowman, O. C. Napper and L. Fingelson. The election, in charge of Commissioners Onstad, Branstad, Johnson, Michaelson and Jasperson, was held February 28, 1895, and resulted in a vote of 34 to 14 for incorporation.

The year 1900 brought the first bank to the town of Leland. Through the efforts of B. A. Plummer, president of the First National Bank of Forest City, the Farmers Savings Bank was organized in that year. The capital stock was placed at \$10,000 and in November 1900, the bank commenced business. B. A. Plummer was elected the first president; J. D. Leland, vice president; and Charles Isaacs, cashier. In the next year Leland and Isaacs resigned and their places were taken by O. Michaelson and E. G. McGreevey respectively. The present officers are: O. Michaelson, president; L. T. Thompson, vice president; E. G. McGreevey, cashier; and Leona Buren, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$10,000 and the deposits about \$65,000.

## RAKE

The town of Rake has a population of about 225. It is located on the Rock Island Railroad, in Lincoln Township, twenty-eight miles northwest of Forest City.

The plat of Rake was filed August 9, 1900. Thomas H. and Mary Brown were the owners of the land included within the plat, namely: part of the northeast quarter of Section 16, Township 100, Range 26 West. J. H. T. Ambrose surveyed the ground.

The State Savings Bank of Rake was incorporated and articles filed March 5, 1914, with a capital stock of \$15,000. The first officers were: A. A. Rake, president; S. C. Jensvold, vice president; J. A. Rake, cashier; L. E. Bolstad, A. E. Helland, Ed. O. Holverson, John R. Unterdahl and Alfred Christopherson, directors. The present officers are: A. Christopherson, president; S. C. Jensvold, vice president; J. Rake, cashier; A. M. Erdahl, assistant cashier. The capital stock is still \$15,000 and the deposits average \$80,000.

## SCARVILLE

Scarville is a town of 150 people, on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, in Logan Township, eighteen miles north of Forest City.

The plat of Scarville was filed October 11, 1899. The land named consisted of part of the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 100, Range 23 West, also part of the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 100, Range 24 West. C. T. Dyke, a civil engineer and surveyor of Mason City, Iowa, at the request of the Iowa & Minnesota Town Site Company, surveyed the town on the 20th, 21st and 22d of September, 1899.

In 1904 Scarville was incorporated. On May 2d of that year a petition was presented to the court asking for the same and signed by T. J. Folken, S. S. Hanson, I. O. Iverson, N. Leverson, A. Iverson, Peder Langeland, H. Iverson, Jake Thompson, Thom Jorgenson, T. Lund, P. H. Moe, S. A. Dale, Oscar Severson, C. L. Tuley, W. E. Campbell, Nels Mandahl, O. J. Folken, C. K. Nelson, John H. Moe, A. Anderson, Albert H. Peterson, A. N. Brudvig, Jr., W. J. Nagel, John Folken, John L. Larson, Alf Sime, John O. Reue, S. Knutsen. The various formalities were observed according to law and on March 17, 1904, the election was held. There were 30 votes polled, divided as follows: for incorporation, 27; against incorporation, 2; defective, 1.

The Scarville Bank was established in 1903. C. L. Suby is the president of this institution now; and A. M. Larson, cashier. The capital stock is \$10,000 and the deposits about \$80,000.

## OTHER TOWNS

Benson, afterward changed to Lelandsburg and then Leland, was platted and the plat filed May 19, 1880. It was laid out at the direction of David Secor and John Law on the southwest quarter of the northwest fractional quarter of Section 1, Township 98, Range 24 West. J. H. T. Ambrose, the county surveyor laid it out on the 12th and 13th of May, 1880.

The plat of Norman, twenty-one miles northeast of Forest City, was filed June 15, 1880. It was laid out at the request of John S. Dahle on the 1st of June, 1880, on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 12, Township 100, Range 23 West. J. H. T. Ambrose did the work of surveying. Norman is now upon the R. F. D. route from Emmons, having no postoffice of its own.

Mount Valley is a discontinued postoffice in the township of that name, now supplied with mail by rural route from Forest City. Ratna, Tweten, Vinje and Delano are small communities without postoffice, permitted to decline for want of a railroad or other incentive to grow.

## CHAPTER VI

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

#### THE NEWSPAPERS

THE BEGINNING—STATISTICAL REVIEW OF EARLY SCHOOLS—REPORT FOR 1916—SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION—FIRST SCHOOLS—TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION—NORMAL INSTITUTES—COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS—HISTORY OF THE WALDORF LUTHERAN COLLEGE—NEWSPAPER HISTORY—THE WINNEBAGO PRESS—NORTHERN IOWA GAZETTE—WINNEBAGO SUMMIT—THE WINNEBAGO CHIEF—WINNEBAGO WEEKLY REVIEW—THE INDEPENDENT—THE NORTH STAR—THE LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC—THE INDEPENDENT HERALD—WINNEBAGO REPUBLICAN—BUFFALO CENTER TRIBUNE—THOMPSON COURIER—RAKE REGISTER.

The factors which have made rapid educational progress possible in Winnebago County are many. From the beginning of schools until the present year new ideas have been incorporated into the public school system until now Winnebago County may boast of one of the most efficient educational systems in the state. Before treating the details of the growth of schools here in this county it may be well to glance backward to the beginning of education in the state and territory, many years before Winnebago County became a civil division.

#### THE BEGINNING

Gov. Robert Lucas, in his message to the First Legislative Assembly of Iowa Territory, which convened at Burlington, November 12, 1838, said in reference to schools:

“The 12th section of the Act of Congress establishing our territory, declares ‘that the citizens of Iowa shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and immunities heretofore granted and secured to the Territory of Wisconsin and its inhabitants.’ This extends to us all the rights, privileges and immunities specified in the ordinance of Congress on the 13th of July, 1787.

“The third article of this ordinance declares ‘that religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness

of mankind, schools and all means of education shall be forever encouraged.'

"Congress, to carry out this declaration, has granted one section of land in each township to the inhabitants of such township for the purpose of schools therein.

"There is no object to which I wish to call your attention more emphatically than the subject of establishing, at the commencement of our political existence, a well digested system of common schools."

The assembly began the task of formulating and providing for an adequate system of public schools, and enacted a law providing for the formation of districts, the establishment of schools, and authorized the voters of each district, when lawfully assembled, to levy and collect the necessary taxes "either in cash or good, merchantable property at cash prices, upon the inhabitants of their respective districts, not exceeding one-half percentum, nor amounting to more than \$10 on any one person; to do all and everything necessary to the establishment and support of schools within the same."

The Second Legislative Assembly, on January 16, 1840, enacted a much more comprehensive law to establish a system of common schools—a law containing many excellent features. Its provisions were, however, in advance of the public sentiment upon education, making ample provisions, as it did, for free public schools. It has been claimed by students of the subject that the people of Iowa were not quite ready for such a law.

In the United States Census Report for 1840, very few schools, either public or private, were reported. One academy in Scott County, with twenty-five scholars, and in the state sixty-three primary and common schools, with 1,500 scholars, being the whole number reported.

The first section of the act of 1839, for the establishment of common schools, provided "that there shall be established a common school, or schools, in each of the counties of this territory, which shall be open and free to every class of white citizens between the ages of five and twenty-five years." The second section provided "that the county board shall from time to time form such districts in their respective counties, whenever a petition may be presented for that purpose by a majority of the voters resident within such contemplated district." These districts were governed by a board of three trustees, whose duties were to examine and employ teachers, superintend the schools, and collect and disburse the taxes voted by the electors for school purposes.

Among earlier enactments of the Territorial Legislature were those requiring that each district maintain at least three months of school each year, and that the expenses for the same were to be raised by taxes levied upon the property of said district. Among later enact-

ments was that providing for a county school tax, to be levied to pay teachers, and that whatever additional sum should be required for this purpose should be assessed upon the parents of the scholars in proportion to the length of time sent. The rate bill system was thus adopted near the close of the territorial period.

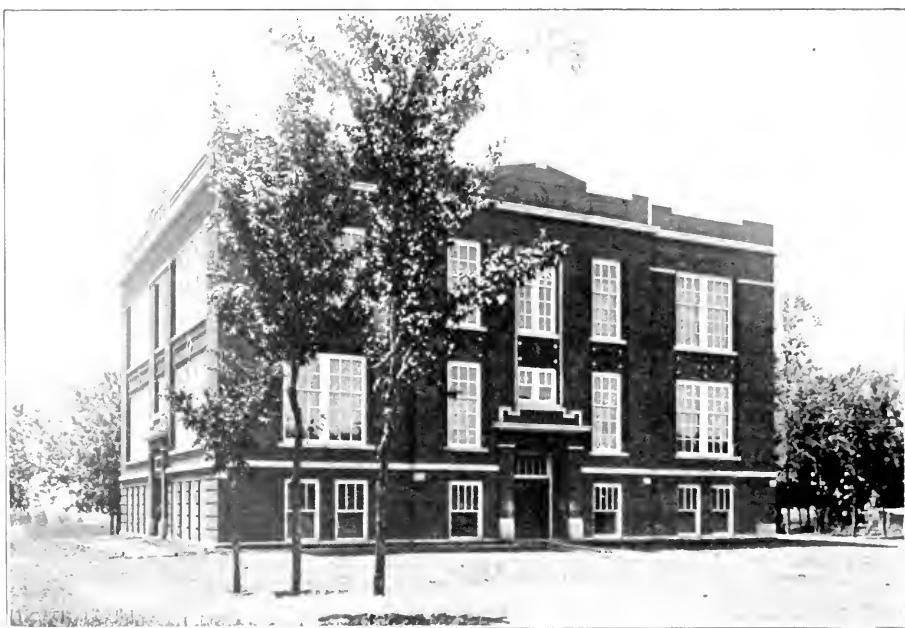
When Iowa was admitted into the Union as a state, on December 28, 1846, it had a population of 100,000, a school population of 20,000 and had about 400 organized school districts. From this time the number of districts increased, reaching 1,000 in 1849 and 1,200 in 1850. In 1857 the number of organized districts had increased to 3,265. Maturin D. Fisher, then superintendent of public instruction, in his report of November, 1857, urged the revision of the school law and a reduction in the number of school districts.

The Seventh General Assembly again took up the subject of revision of the schools laws, and on March 12, 1858, passed "An Act for the Public Instruction of Iowa," the first section of which provided that "each civil township in the several counties of the state, is hereby declared a school district for all the purposes of this act, the boundaries of said township being the boundaries of said school district, and every township hereafter laid out and organized, a school district; and each district as at present organized shall become a subdistrict for the purpose hereinafter provided: Provided, that each incorporated city or town, including the territory annexed thereto for school purposes, and which contain not less than 1,000 inhabitants, shall be and is hereby created a school district." This law took effect March 20, 1858, and reduced the number of districts from about 3,500 to less than 900.

In December, 1858, a law was enacted providing that any city or incorporated town, including the territory annexed thereto for school purposes, might constitute a school district by vote of the majority of the electors residing in the territory of such contemplated district. In 1860 the provisions of this act were extended to unincorporated towns and villages containing not less than 300 inhabitants.

By an act passed April 3, 1866, this privilege was further extended to any city or sub-district containing not less than 200 inhabitants, and comprising territory contiguous thereto. It soon became evident that by this amendment a serious innovation would be made in the district township system, by the formation of independent districts in the more thickly populated and wealthier portions of the townships. The amendment was repealed by the session of the following General Assembly.

The township system met the approval of every state superintendent, while the subdistrict system was strenuously opposed. A. S. Kissell in a report dated January 1, 1872, said: "In this system every



HIGH SCHOOL, THOMPSON



township becomes a school district and all subdistrict boundaries are abandoned; and if this plan were carried into effect in this state it would allow no other school divisions than those of the independent and township districts.

"The most experienced educators of the country have advocated this system. Among these are such men as Horace Mann, United States Commissioner Barnard, Ex-Governor Boutwell, Dr. Newton Bateman of Illinois, Dr. Gregory, late superintendent of Michigan, and the county and state superintendents of one-third of the states in the Union. The arguments advanced by many of these experienced school men are unanswerable. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have tested the system practically for several years; it is pronounced by these states as a success, and this successful experiment of three or four years should have greater weight with us in this young and growing commonwealth than any theoretical arguments that could be advanced."

Notwithstanding the efforts and arguments in favor of the township system, and the conviction, on the part of those who had made a special study of the subject, that it would prove disastrous in its results, the General Assembly, which convened January 8, 1872, enacted a law providing for the formation of independent districts, from the subdistricts of a district township.

#### STATISTICAL REVIEW

In 1866 there were seven school houses in the county of Winnebago, their value reported as being \$4,840. There were, however, eight schools in the county, employing nine teachers, who received an average weekly compensation of \$9.75 for the males and \$5.11 for the females, aggregating for the year, \$1,151.75. The number of persons of school age, that is between the ages of five and twenty-one, was 328; the number of pupils enrolled in the schools was 170; average attendance, 99. The average cost of tuition, per week, for each pupil, was twenty-one cents in the summer and thirty-eight cents in the winter. The apparatus used by the schools was valued at \$146.

In 1867 there were ten school houses in the county, valued at \$9,808. There were 318 persons of school age, 216 enrolled and an average attendance of 155. There were thirteen teachers employed, who received average compensation per week of \$9.60 for the males and \$5.94 for the females.

By 1870 the schools made a much better showing, as the following table will prove:

Number of subdistricts.....	5
Number of school houses.....	14

Number of schools taught.....	15
Value of school houses.....	\$15,850
Value of apparatus.....	\$260
Number of persons of school age.....	589
Of which were males.....	329
Of which were females.....	260
Number of pupils enrolled.....	323
Average attendance .....	315
Total number of teachers.....	22
Of which were males.....	10
Of which were females.....	12
Ave. compensation per week for male teachers.....	\$7.20
Ave. compensation per week for female teachers....	\$5.00

The educational interests of the county continued to improve, new schools were formed and teachers became better qualified for their tasks. In 1877 there was a marked increase in the number of schools and enrolled scholars. In the report of schools for 1877, W. A. Chapman, county superintendent, referred to educational matters as follows:

“The schools of this county are steadily improving, both as to numbers and efficiency. The teachers are becoming convinced of the necessity of making some special preparation for the work in which they are engaged. I find the Normal Institute to be one of the most efficient means for the elevation of the standard of education among our common school teachers. The institutes held in this county have been a decided success. I have taken pains to employ only such conductors and teachers as were fully up to the requirements of the times. The institute program coming to hand early, gave our teachers a better chance to prepare for the work of the normal and most of them did make some use of it. Something ought to be done to secure a better attendance at our schools. I have made it a point to visit each school, and advise, counsel and encourage the teachers as occasion might direct.”

From the report of the superintendent for 1881 the following table is taken:

Number of district townships.....	5
Independent districts .....	1
Number of subdistricts.....	33
Number of ungraded schools.....	35
Number of rooms in graded schools.....	4
Number of teachers employed.....	63
Male teachers .....	32
Female teachers .....	31
Average monthly salary of male teachers.....	\$27.60
Average monthly salary of female teachers.....	\$26.08

Number of persons between ages of 5 and 21.....	1773
Of which were males.....	941
Of which were females.....	832
Number enrolled in schools.....	1274
Average attendance .....	623
Number of school houses in the county.....	35
Of which were frame.....	32
Of which were brick.....	1
Of which were log.....	2
Total value of school houses.....	\$27,900

The substantial growth of the schools of Winnebago County since 1881 can be presented in no better manner than by the statistics for the year 1916, compiled from the annual report of the county superintendent of schools. The following tables do not include the magnificent and spacious high school building erected in Forest City in 1916, at a cost of \$80,000, for which sum bonds were issued, nor the \$28,000 building at Thompson, occupied by the schools in January, 1916.

#### INDEPENDENT CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

	Teachers,		Persons of School		Enroll- ment	Schools	Cost
	Male	Female	Male	Age, Female			
Buffalo Center .....	1	16	316	296	429	3	\$40,000
Forest City .....	2	21	255	308	532	2	25,000
Lake Mills .....	2	13	202	227	429	2	30,000
Leland .....	1	1	40	40	68	1	2,000
Rake .....	1	2	52	55	89	1	4,000
Scarville .....	.	2	34	33	52	1	3,000
Thompson .....	1	7	115	123	215	1	3,000
 Total .....	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 62	<hr/> 1014	<hr/> 1082	<hr/> 1814	<hr/> 11	<hr/> \$134,000

#### SCHOOL TOWNSHIPS

	Teachers,		Persons of School		Enroll- ment	Schools	Cost
	Male	Female	Male	Age, Female			
Center .....	1	6	139	104	174	7	\$5,000
Forest .....	1	6	78	68	101	7	3,050
Grant .....	.	11	107	119	179	9	5,200
King .....	.	9	123	97	145	8	4,650
Linden .....	1	10	129	114	172	9	5,400
Logan .....	1	7	91	88	138	6	4,000
Mount Valley .....	.	11	163	160	222	9	4,516
Newton .....	1	10	123	118	184	8	4,800
Norway .....	.	7	101	89	97	6	3,400

## RURAL INDEPENDENT DISTRICTS

	Teachers,		Persons of School Age,		Enroll- ment	Schools	Cost
	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Eden No. 1.....	1	26	23	32	1		600
Eden No. 2.....	1	26	14	28	1		400
Eden No. 3.....	3	18	12	24	1		700
Eden No. 4.....	1	18	12	18	1		1,000
Eden No. 5.....	1	28	18	35	1		500
Eden No. 6.....	2	22	28	33	1		600
Kayser .....	1	9	13	30	1		400
Lincoln No. 1.....	1	12	8	9	1		300
Lincoln No. 3.....	1	7	16	19	1		800
Lincoln No. 4.....	1	19	13	21	1		1,000
Lincoln No. 5.....	2	20	14	29	1		600
Lincoln No. 6.....	3	23	21	26	1		500
Rural Total .....	5	95	1282	1149	1716	81	\$47,416
Grand Total .....	13	157	2296	2231	3530	92	\$182,000

The verage monthly salary of the male teachers in the county is \$106.46 and the average for the females is \$53.60. The former figure, however, includes salaries of superintendents, etc.

## SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

Although Winnebago County has not taken up the question of school consolidation to a great extent, actual features of consolidation are existent in the county and it is a safe prediction that before many years have passed the system will be almost generally adopted. Buffalo Center consolidated in the year 1896. Forest City, Lake Mills, Leland and Thompson districts all have hack transportation for pupils living in the country, but are not considered organized consolidated districts; Buffalo Center is alone in this respect.

Through the consolidated system of teaching every child of school age in the district, whether living in the town or in the country within a range of miles, is carried to school each morning in closed hacks which take a certain route. In the evening, after school hours, the pupils are returned to their homes. This is repeated each school day of the year. The pupil also has the advantage of a graded school education, which he did not have when he attended the crossroads country school house. He is given a variety of courses, many of them optional, and after completing the eighth grade is ready for the high school branches without extra preparation. The pupil also has the advantage of social life, and the country pupil meets his city brothers upon an even plane and derives the same benefits from the educational facilities provided by the district and county.

## FIRST SCHOOLS

The first school in Forest City was taught by Miss Sarah Beadle in 1858, in a house built by Nathan Jeffords. A large and substantial building was constructed in 1870.

The first school house in Center Township was built in the winter of 1859-60 in the northeast part of Lake Mills and the first school was taught in 1860 by E. D. Hinman. A two-story school building was erected in Lake Mills about 1869, at a cost of \$1000. This building was burned to the ground in 1873. In the next year a new school house was constructed, costing \$2000. Some of the early teachers of the Lake Mills schools were: Mrs. Fannie Hinman, Emily Skinner, Mrs. Crapper, W. A. Chapman, E. F. Thompson, Mrs. E. F. Thompson and Scott Toye.

The first school in Linden Township was taught by H. Mattison. The first school in Mount Valley Township was taught by Amelia Steadman in the house of Isaae Mercer. The first school house in Newton Township was constructed in 1871 on Section 36. The first school building in Norway Township was built in 1859. It was a frame building on Section 15. Here Mrs. Nellie Hinman taught the first school in the winter of 1859-60. In 1868 this house was torn down and a new one erected.

## TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The first to introduce the organization of a county teachers' association to the teachers of the county was Martin Cooper, county superintendent, in 1870. At an institute held in the fall of that year it was determined to meet for the purpose of organizing a teachers' association in the spring of the following year. This meeting, however, was never held and not before ten years had passed was there an organization of this kind. In the fall of 1881 at an institute held in Forest City the teachers resolved to hold a meeting in the spring of 1882, to effect the organization of an association. The meeting was held at Forest City, Supt. A. N. Brones, chairman. Various ideas on school methods were introduced and discussed and then the association adjourned to meet at Forest City March 30, 1883.

## NORMAL INSTITUTES

The Fifteenth General Assembly enacted a law March 19, 1874, to establish normal institutes which reads as follows:

"Sec. 1769. The county superintendent shall hold annually a normal institute for the instruction of teachers, and those who may desire

to teach, and with the concurrence of the superintendent of public instruction, procure such assistance as may be necessary to conduct the same, at such times as the schools of the county are generally closed. To defray the expenses of said institute, he shall require the payment of \$1 registration fee for each person attending the normal institute, etc."

The first institute ever held in the county convened at the court house in Forest City in the fall of 1869, about five years before the above law was enacted. These institutes have largely been abandoned at this day, owing to the superior facilities obtainable at the various normal schools in the state, and at the colleges and universities.

#### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

In the spring of 1858 the office of county superintendent of schools was created and the first election held in April. Following are the names of those who have held this office, with the dates of their incumbency: C. W. Scott, 1858; B. F. Denslow, 1859; Martin Bumgardner, 1861; August Oulman, 1863; C. A. Stedman, 1865; Martin Cooper, 1869; A. L. Shay, 1871; W. W. Olmstead, 1873; W. A. Chapman, 1875; A. N. Brones, 1879; George A. Franklin, 1885; W. H. May, 1887; W. A. Chapman, 1889; L. C. Brown, 1893; K. N. Knudson, 1889; L. C. Brown, 1903; and at the beginning of the year 1917 the office was held by Jessie M. Parker.

#### WALDORF LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Waldorf Lutheran College, located in Forest City, Iowa, was founded on July 16, 1903. The institution owes its existence principally to the efforts of Rev. C. S. Salveson, at that time pastor of the United Lutheran Congregation in Forest City. Reverend Salveson purchased the college building for \$18,000, upon the condition that an academy be established and maintained and, with this purpose in view, he called together the neighboring pastors and congregations in order to discuss the question of founding a Lutheran school. The proper steps of organization were taken and the Waldorf Lutheran College Association formed. Articles of incorporation were filed at the county recorder's office on September 5, 1903, and were signed by the following: C. S. Salveson, N. N. Johnson, N. C. Brun, O. G. Belshein, L. A. Jensen, Oliver Gorden, N. E. Boe, L. W. Boe, William Williams, L. I. Aasgaard, L. O. Fossum, J. C. Thompson, P. A. Anderson and L. A. Hauge. The articles stated in part that the "general object shall be to maintain, operate and conduct a normal school and academy or college, controlled by members of the Norwegian United Lutheran

Church of America." The building purchased was transferred by deed to the Association and the citizens of Forest City subscribed the sum of \$6,000 to assist in the opening of the school. Actual school work began September 23, 1903, with five teachers and thirteen students. The formal dedication of the building for school purposes took place on October 11th; this day has since been known and observed as Foundation Day. In 1911 the college erected a dormitory for boys adjoining the main building, which cost \$35,000.

Reverend Salveson was the first president of this institution and continued as such until the spring of the first year, when Rev. L. W. Boe took the position, having been previously elected. Reverend Boe was the incumbent until January, 1915, or until Rev. Martin Hegland took charge.

Not until 1906 was the school officially recognized by the church. At first some doubt existed as to the value of a school in this portion of the state, but after thorough investigation the church authorities ratified the establishment of the college. In 1907 the college was recognized by the University of Iowa as one of the accredited high schools of the state. Several donations or gifts have been made to the college since its start, the principal one of which was that of Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Dahl, consisting of 558 acres of land in Marshall County, Minnesota.

As to the purposes of the school, the Waldorf College Bulletin briefly states: "It is the aim and purpose of Waldorf College to provide a general education which shall include and place special stress upon that most important element in education, namely, the development of Christian character. The school training which neglects the religious and moral side of man is not only incomplete, but it is a positive danger to society and good government. In standard of scholarship, the school strives to equal the best American schools. In the standard of Christianity, it adheres to the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This, however, in no wise excludes students of good moral character, who may hold memberships in other churches, provided they are willing to comply with the rules and regulations of the school."

The courses of study offered at this school comprise the following:

1. A common school\*course of one year.
2. An academic course of four years preparing for college and university courses.
3. A normal academic course of four years preparing for teaching.
4. A business academic course of four years preparing for a business career.

5. An agricultural academic course of four years preparing for scientific farming.
6. A normal course of three years.
7. A parochial normal course of three years.
8. A course in vocal and instrumental music.
9. A business course of one year.
10. A shorthand and typewriting course of one year.
11. An agricultural short course of two four-months winter terms.
12. Summer sessions of six and twelve weeks.

To say a word more in regard to the buildings and equipment of the college, there are three buildings in use at the present time. The main building is 124 feet long by 84 feet deep, three stories and basement. It is built of pressed brick and stone. On the first floor are recitation rooms, and the chapel, the latter with a seating capacity of about 300. The second and third floors are used as a dormitory for girls. The basement is used for the Boarding Club, the dining hall having a seating capacity of about 250. The north wing of the basement is used for Home Economics.

The house immediately west of the college is used as a residence for teachers and students, also a Music Studio is in this building.

The new building erected in 1911 is a three-story building 95 feet long and 60 feet wide. It contains six large well-lighted classrooms and dormitory rooms for eighty boys. The gymnasium in the basement of this building is 60 feet long and 44 feet wide and is equipped with shower baths and dressing rooms. All the buildings are lighted by electricity and heated by steam from a central heating plant.

The following statistics will be of interest to the general reader; as they show the growth and development of the school. This is a summary for thirteen years.

YEAR	ATTENDANCE	GRADUATES
1903- 4.....	125 .....	13
1904- 5.....	201 .....	13
1905- 6.....	228 .....	11
1906- 7.....	215 .....	17
1907- 8.....	241 .....	28
1908—Summer Term .....	57 .....	
1908- 9.....	233 .....	37
1909-10.....	220 .....	31
1910-11.....	312 .....	48
1911-12.....	291 .....	39
1912-13.....	301 .....	59
1913-14.....	314 .....	58
1914-15.....	302 .....	63
1915-16.....	301 .....	46
1916 —Summer Term .....	60 .....	



VIEWS OF MAIN STREET, THOMPSON



## GRADUATES BY COURSES

Academic .....	129
Normal .....	65
Piano .....	10
Business .....	143
Shorthand .....	115
Voice .....	1
 Total .....	 463

The faculty members of Waldorf Lutheran College in 1917 are:  
 Rev. Martin Hegland, Ph. D. (Columbia University), President.  
 Religion.

John A. Holvik, A. M. (St. Olaf College). Norwegian, German.

Mrs. John A. Holvik (Graduate of College of Music, St. Olaf).  
 Voice.

Alice J. Heiberg (Graduate College of Music, St. Olaf). Piano.

Jennie Thorson (Graduate Thomas Normal Training School).  
 Home Economics.

Selmer C. Larson, A. B. (St. Olaf College). Mathematics and  
 Science.

Charles G. Johnson, B. S. Agr. (Iowa State College, Ames). Agriculture and Manual Training.

Bessie L. Gulbrandson, A. B. (St. Olaf College), Preceptress.  
 English and Education.

Olaf O. Bjertness, A. B. (St. Olaf College), Business Manager.  
 Civics and Economics.

Oscar Lyders, A. B. (St. Olaf College). Music and History.

Minnie G. Syverson (Graduate Whitewater, Wis., Normal School,  
 Commercial Course). Shorthand and Typewriting.

Matilda Oefstedal, A. B. (St. Olaf College). English, Latin.

G. A. Larsen (Graduate Capital City Commercial College, Madison,  
 Wisconsin). Bookkeeping.

Traverse B. Krouskup (State University of Iowa). Assistant Instructor.

Mrs. Inger Hexdall, Matron.

The present officers of the Waldorf Lutheran College Association are as follows: Rev. O. R. Sletten, Lake Mills, Iowa, president; Rev. L. O. Wigdahl, Ruthven, Iowa, vice president; L. A. Jensen, Forest City, Iowa, secretary; Luther I. Aasgaard, Forest City, Iowa, treasurer; Rev. Edward Nervig, Albert Lea, Minnesota, A. O. Rye, Hanlon-town, Iowa, and O. Michaelson, Leland, Iowa, trustees who terms expire 1919; Rev. C. S. Halvorson, Thompson, Iowa, Luther I. Aasgaard, Forest City, Iowa, Rev. N. C. Brun, Lake Mills, Iowa,

trustees whose terms expire 1917; Oliver Gorden, Forest City, Iowa, Rev. Hans Fosnes, Northwood, Iowa, and Rev. C. S. Salveson, Carrington, N. D., trustees whose terms expire in 1918. The board of directors is composed of the following: Rev. P. B. Trelstad, Blue Earth, Minnesota, term expires 1919; Rev. L. O. Wigdahl, Ruthven, Iowa, and Rev. R. O. Hjelmeland, Fertile, Iowa, terms expire 1917; Rev. Joh. Granskou, Lake Mills, Iowa, and Rev. J. J. Akre, Estherville, Iowa, terms expire 1918.

## NEWSPAPER HISTORY

### THE WINNEBAGO PRESS

The first newspaper in Winnebago County bore the name of the Winnebago Press and the first number of the same was issued June 14, 1867, at Forest City, with Will Kelly as editor and publisher. Owing to some delay in getting his material here the editor could not publish a complete paper the first week, but sent out a half sheet, apologizing and promising to issue a complete paper the following week, which he did. It was a five column quarto, well filled with local and general news, and contained a fair number of advertisements. Mr. Kelly, although a strong writer, lacked the business ability to make his newspaper a success and in September, 1867, the Press came under the management of Arthur Linn and J. C. Harwood, two young men from Charles City, Iowa.

The firm of Linn & Harwood enlarged the paper to a six column folio and continued their partnership until November 11, 1869, when Mr. Linn sold out to his partner and retired. He afterward became editor of the Bismarck (N. D.) Herald.

Mr. Harwood continued the publication of the Press with good success and considerably increased its circulation. In the fall of 1870 it was enlarged to a seven column sheet, and in July following it was again enlarged to eight columns. In October, 1871, Mr. Harwood relinquished control of the Press and the paper and plant were purchased by W. C. Hayward and M. Halvorsen. After his retirement Mr. Harwood engaged in mercantile business in Forest City with B. A. Plummer for a time, then went to Hampton, Iowa, and reentered the newspaper business.

The firm of Hayward and Halvorsen took control of the Press with the issue of October 12, 1871, and in their salutatory promised allegiance to the republican party. This partnership continued in active force until July 1, 1873, when Hayward retired, selling out to Halvorsen. The latter remained in sole charge until January 1, 1874,

when A. H. Chase purchased a half interest and the firm became Halvorsen & Chase. The Press was continued until about the first of March when its name was changed to the Northern Iowa Gazette.

#### NORTHERN IOWA GAZETTE

In November, 1874, Mr. Halvorsen sold out his interest in this paper to Mr. Chase and removed to Lake Mills, where he established the Independent Herald. He conducted this journal for two or three years, then sold out to E. D. Hinman and went to Albert Lea, Minnesota. On November 26, 1874, A. H. Chase became sole proprietor of the Northern Iowa Gazette and he at once changed the name to the

#### WINNEBAGO SUMMIT

By 1885 the firm name of the publishers of the Summit was the Chase Brothers. Articles of incorporation were filed on August 19th of that year, signed by A. H. Chase, J. W. Mahoney and David Secor. The incorporation was known as the Summit Printing Company. This stock company was maintained until 1901, when it was reorganized and placed upon a new basis. The Chase Brothers continued as proprietors and publishers of this paper until about this time. G. S. Gilbertson, having previously become associated with this paper and then becoming the owner of the majority of the stock, employed different editors to operate the paper, among whom were L. R. Walrea, W. O. Howard, N. W. Potts and W. A. Olson. On September 1, 1915, W. R. Prewitt purchased the controlling interest in the paper and now is the sole owner and publisher. The Summit is now published to over 1500 people in the county and in this part of the state. The plant is modern in every respect, being equipped with a linotype, two Gordon job presses and a Potter book and job press. The paper is now an eight page, six column publication, all home print and is an organ of the republican party.

#### THE WINNEBAGO CHIEF

The first number of this paper was issued February 4, 1880. It was a six column quarto. The paper was established by Clayton O. Ingalls of Clear Lake, Iowa, and he was its editor and publisher; George E. Frost of Clear Lake being the owner.

In September, 1880, H. M. Halvorsen and J. T. Lattimore purchased the Winnebago Chief and changed the name to the

## WINNEBAGO WEEKLY REVIEW

This paper presented its first issue to the public on the 15th of September, 1880, being a six column quarto. On April 15, 1881, Mr. Halvorsen became sole editor and proprietor of the Review and so continued until January 1, 1882. At this time he formed a partnership with his brother, M. C. Halvorsen, and the firm name of H. M. Halvorsen & Company was adopted. On February 1, 1887, the paper underwent another metamorphosis, when J. E. Anderson assumed charge of the publication and renamed it the

## INDEPENDENT

Under this title Mr. Anderson has continued the publication of this weekly until the present time and has made of the paper not only a news carrier of value, but an organ of political and social influence. The first issue under the new management was upon February 17, 1887, and the proprietors were listed as J. E. Anderson & Company, with F. M. Cooley as editor. Mr. Anderson has ever been an advocate of progressive principles and has carried his political ideas far beyond the confines of the county.

## THE NORTH STAR

The paper bearing the above name was established in June, 1872, at Lake Mills, by E. D. Hinman & Company. It was a six column folio and was established in the interest of the northern part of the county, which hitherto had been without a newspaper. The first issue of the North Star appeared June 3, 1872. This venture of the North Star was unsuccessful and after about a year's existence it was suspended. Later, however, it was resurrected and again placed before the public. John Kyle came into the possession of the plant and in 1892 changed the name to the

## LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

He afterwards sold out to Ford Howell and Ray Gregg, who conducted the paper for four years, when Howell disposed of his interests in the paper to his partner, then the firm became Gregg & Gregg. After an interval of five years P. M. Joice and Harry Griffen bought the Lake Mills Graphic and so continued as publishers and owners until 1900. In this year the Lake Mills Publishing Company was formed, consisting of the Graphic owners and the owners of the Republi-

kaneren, a Norwegian paper which had been established some years before and issued by John Story. After a year the Norwegian paper was sold. The Lake Mills Publishing Company continued with Harry Griffen as business manager for a year, then M. A. Aasgaard took the position for one and a half years and in 1902 purchased the entire plant. The Graphic has an excellent circulation in the county (about 1500) and is equipped with modern presses and other apparatus.

#### THE INDEPENDENT HERALD

In the month of February, 1875, the first issue of the Independent Herald appeared at Lake Mills. Mareelus Halvorsen was the editor and publisher. The paper was a five column quarto. Halvorsen continued in control of the paper for about three years, then sold to E. D. Hinman, who in turn, after one year, sold out to H. W. Rowland. The next purchaser was O. P. Hull in August, 1881. In January, 1884, S. K. Gregg assumed control of the Herald. After several years of precarious existence the Herald threw up the sponge and retired from the ring.

#### WINNEBAGO REPUBLICAN

The Winnebago Republican, published at Forest City, is the youngest newspaper in the county, having been established in 1901. Luther I. Aasgaard is the editor of the Republican. The plant of this paper is one of the most modern in the state. The paper, though in its infancy, enjoys a good circulation and earns a well merited patronage.

#### BUFFALO CENTER TRIBUNE

The Buffalo Center Tribune made its first appearance in the year 1892. The present editor of the weekly is J. P. Boyd. The paper has a good circulation and is devoted to the interests of the city of Buffalo Center and the surrounding community.

#### THOMPSON COURIER

The Thompson Courier is another of the live and energetic smaller papers of the county and state. The Courier was established in the year 1893 and is now published by Irva Townsend.

#### RAKE REGISTER

The Rake Register came into being in 1900 and is next to the youngest paper in the county. W. C. Sundermeyer is the editor and proprietor.

## CHAPTER VII

### RELIGIOUS HISTORY

#### CHURCHES OF FOREST CITY—LAKE MILLS CHURCHES—OTHER CHURCHES— HISTORY OF THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

Something of the history of the church denominations represented in both Hancock and Winnebago Counties is presented with the chapter on Hancock County churches. A repetition here is needless.

The churches of Winnebago County have always been vigorous and active, and the Norwegian Lutheran church is the predominating society of the county.

#### CHURCHES OF FOREST CITY

In 1858 a number of persons in Forest City organized a Methodist Episcopal Church. The first meeting was held in what was then known as the Maben Hotel, situated on the east side of Clark Street. Afterwards meetings were frequently held in school houses and in private residences. Mr. Hankins was the first minister that preached for this denomination in Forest City. A few of the other early pastors here were: Revs. Keeler Curtis, John Ball, Birge, A. S. R. Groom and Hancock. After the erection of the Norwegian Methodist Episcopal Church, the society occupied that church until 1882, when they built a church of their own. On February 12, 1877, the church was incorporated under the name of the First American M. E. Church of Forest City, and with the following named persons as trustees: J. E. Anderson, Eugene Secor, J. Thompson, Abbie J. Secor and C. H. Lackore. The dedication services of the Methodist Episcopal Church took place June 6, 1883, under charge of Bishop Thomas Bowman of St. Louis. Rev. J. A. E. Cunningham is the present pastor of this church.

The Norwegian Methodist Episcopal Church of Forest City was organized October 22, 1866, by Rev. A. Johnson. The following named were the first members of this organization: N. O. Brones, H. Paulson, Knud Einarson, Ole S. Torgerson, Daniel H. Pederson, Nils Pederson, Peder Sunne, Cerine Einarson, Svend Larson, Guri Larson, Ellen Sunne, G. Erickson and Sivert Pederson. In 1874 the society built

a church edifice at a cost of \$3000. This church is now known as the Norwegian Danish M. E. Church and is in charge of Rev. William Jorgerson.

The first meetings of the Congregational Church ever held in Forest City were presided over by Rev. A. S. Allen. After preaching a few times at different houses, Reverend Allen called a meeting to be held at Forest City April 30, 1871, to take steps toward the organization of a church here. This was done and the following were first members: William Taylor, Harriett Taylor, Leora Taylor, John Millington, Mrs. E. G. Millington and Fannie Millington. Meetings were held from time to time in the school house hall. Reverend Allen was, of course, the first pastor of the congregation; other early preachers here were Revs. J. D. Mason, C. F. Dykeman, Asa Countryman and A. B. Hinckley.

The Catholic Church just outside the corporate limits of Forest City was commenced during the fall of 1891, when Father Kelley had charge. The church, known as St. James, was incorporated March 18, 1912, by Archbishop Keane, Vicar General Ryan, Rev. W. J. Torpey, T. J. Hayes and W. J. Smith.

The First Swedish Baptist Church of Winnebago County was organized about 1872 by Rev. C. Caulson, of Albert Lea, Minnesota. The first meeting was held at the house of Peter Olson and the following were the original members: Peter Olson and wife, Lars Olson and wife, and Bert Johnson and wife. Peter Olson was the first deacon and treasurer. In 1879 the church built their first house of worship, one mile northeast of Forest City. On June 19, 1883 the society incorporated with Peter Anderson, Peter Olson and Nils Martinson as the first trustees. Robert Larson is the present pastor.

The First American Baptist Church at Forest City was incorporated March 15, 1902. Charles Ferel, Samuel Olson and A. E. Howland were the first trustees. Rev. A. L. McMillan is the present pastor of this congregation.

#### LAKE MILLS CHURCHES

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Lake Mills was organized in 1868 by Rev. A. S. R. Groom. The names of the original members cannot be obtained with certainty, but it is known that among the first members of the Methodist Episcopal class at Lake Mills were: E. D. Hinman, P. Garnet and wife, James Price and wife, W. A. Chapman, Mary Todd, E. F. Thompson and wife, Pearl Thompson, Mrs. Southwick, Emily Buek, Abby M. Stewart and A. B. Gardner. E. D. Hinman was the first class leader. Such ministers as Reverends Curtis, Ball, Burge, Groom, Hancocks, Wiley, Coleman, Adron, Webster, Hook,

Shessler, Drake, Platts, Jeffrey, Fancher, Bradshaw, Eyler, Luce, Thompson, Baker, Ward and McBurney were among the early pastors who worked for the maintenance of the society here. The first church edifice was erected at Lake Mills in 1878, at a cost of \$1,500.

The Christian Church in Lake Mills was organized in 1871 by Rev. C. C. Ramsay, of Floyd County, Iowa. Frank Southwick, William Smith, Mrs. Isadora R. Smith, Charles Smith and wife were the first members. A small church building was constructed in 1881, costing them about \$1,000. In 1886 the church was given the name of the Missionary Christian Church.

The Roman Catholic Church, St. Patrick's, was built during the summer of 1890, with Rev. J. McMahon as pastor. The church society was incorporated March 12, 1912, by James J. Keane, Roger Ryan, Rev. W. J. Torpey, J. B. Conley and Francis Shay.

The United Brethren Church at Lake Mills was organized in the year 1888 by Rev. L. P. Mitchell. The church was built in the same year. The United Brethren Church was incorporated February 17, 1890, by Willard Chapman, J. R. and A. M. Farmer.

#### OTHER CHURCHES

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Buffalo Center had its start soon after the founding of the town. The society incorporated in 1893 and filed their papers on February 7th of that year, the same being signed by A. B. Russ, Charles Dempsey, W. Frank Becker, James Harper and E. J. Woods. The First Congregational Church of Buffalo Center was incorporated July 13, 1893. The first trustees under the incorporation were Otis Chapman, C. E. Welsh, A. A. Harris, and Joseph W. Holt. The First German Reformed Church of Buffalo Center was incorporated and papers filed September 9, 1899, signed by B. Bruhno, V. W. Jutting and Henry Wagner. There was also incorporated in 1900 at Buffalo Center the First German Baptist Church. The incorporators were Thomas Lubben, August Winkleman and Albertus Frust. St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Buffalo Center was incorporated about the same time as were the rest of the churches of this denomination in the county. This was on March 18, 1912.

The Congregational Church of Thompson filed articles of incorporation August 31, 1895. These were signed by G. W. Zimmerman, George E. Cooney and John K. Nutting. The First Baptist Church of Thompson filed articles July 24, 1896. The first trustees under the new organization were J. W. Lynn, F. I. Stow and F. W. Thompson. The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Thompson was incorporated in 1898. The first trustees were: John Batchelor, O. T. Severs, H. B. Taylor, W. L. Bradfield and J. L. Jensen.



UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH, THOMPSON



## CHAPTER VIII

### MILITARY HISTORY

SLAVERY—AGITATION IN THE UNITED STATES—BEGINNING OF SECESSION—  
FORT SUMTER—FALL OF THE FORT—PROCLAMATION—SENTIMENT IN  
IOWA—RESPONSE IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY—ROSTER—THOSE WHO DIED.

#### SLAVERY

It has been said that “War brings an element of patriotism that cannot be awakened in the people by any other agency.” However that may be, much of the history of human progress centers about the deeds of great generals and their armies. Aggressive wars have been waged by strong nations for the conquest of weaker ones, or to uphold the regal power and “divine right” of kings; and defensive wars have been fought to advance the rights and liberties of the people or to maintain established governments. The independence of the United States was gained only by a war which lasted for eight years, and of all the great nations of the civilized world the United States is perhaps the only one which has never declared war except to defend her institutions or to secure greater liberties for down-trodden humanity.

#### AGITATION IN U. S.

One of the greatest wars in history was the Civil War of 1861-5, between the northern and the southern states, commonly known as the War of the Rebellion. In this war the South fought to dissolve and the North to preserve the Union of states. Almost from the very beginning of the American Republic, the slavery question became a bone of contention between the free states on one side and the slave states on the other. Slavery was introduced into America in 1619, when a Dutch trader sold a few negroes to the planters of the Jamestown colony. The custom of owning negro slaves gradually spread to the other colonies, but by 1819 seven of the original thirteen states had made provisions for the emancipation of the slaves within their borders.

The first clause of Section 9, Article I, of the Federal Constitution provides that “The migration or importation of such persons as any

of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year 1808."

The adoption of this clause was regarded as a victory for the slaveholding element, as under it Congress had no power to interfere with the foreign slave trade until 1808. But in that year an act was passed prohibiting any further traffic in or importation of negro slaves. In 1819 slavery existed in six of the original thirteen states, the other seven having abolished it as already stated. In the meantime Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama had been admitted with constitutions permitting slavery, and Vermont, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois as free states, so that the country was evenly divided—eleven free and eleven slave states. Maine was admitted as a free state in 1820 and the advocates of slavery sought to have Missouri admitted as a slave state to maintain the equilibrium in the United States Senate. After a long and somewhat acrimonious debate, that state was admitted under the act known as the Missouri Compromise, which provided for the admission of Missouri without any restrictions as to slavery, but expressly stipulated that in all the remaining portion of the Louisiana Purchase north of the line of 36° 30' slavery should be forever prohibited.

During the next twenty-five years the slavery question remained comparatively quiet, owing to the admission of free and slave states in equal number. Arkansas came into the Union in 1836 and Michigan in 1837; the slave state of Florida, admitted in 1845, as offset by the admission of Iowa as a free state in 1846. At the conclusion of the Mexican War in 1847 the United States came into possession of a large expanse of territory in the Southwest, to which the advocates of slavery laid claim, and again the question came up as a subject for legislation, resulting in the compromise act of 1850, commonly called the Omnibus Bill. The opponents of slavery took the view that the act was a violation of the provisions of the Missouri Compromise, because it sought to carry slavery north of the determined line. Four years later the Kansas-Nebraska bill was passed, which added fresh fuel to the already raging flames. Its passage was one of the causes that led to the organization of the republican party, which opposed the extension of slavery to any new territory of the United States whatever.

#### BEGINNING OF SECESSION

In the political campaign of 1860 the issues were clearly defined and some of the slave states declared their intention to withdraw from the Union in the event of Abraham Lincoln's election to the Presidency. The people of the North regarded these declarations as so

many idle threats, made merely for political effect. Through a division in the democratic party, Mr. Lincoln was elected, and on December 20, 1860, South Carolina carried her threat into effect, when a state convention passed an ordinance of secession, declaring that the state's connection with the Union was severed and that all allegiance to the government of the United States was at an end. Mississippi followed with a similar ordinance on January 9, 1861; Florida seceded on January 10th; Georgia, January 19th; Louisiana, January 26th; and Texas February 1st. All these states except Texas sent delegates to a convention at Montgomery, Alabama, February 4, 1861, when a tentative constitution was adopted; Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president and Alexander H. Stephens provisional vice president of the Confederate States of America. They were inaugurated on February 22, 1861, the anniversary of the birth of George Washington. Consequently, when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated on March, 1861, he found seven states in open rebellion and with an organized government in opposition to his administration. However, the Preisdent, his advisers and the people of the North generally, clung to the hope that a reconciliation could be effected and that the citizens of the seceded states could be inducted to return to their allegiance. Vain hope!

#### FORT SUMTER

Relations between the North and the South were still further strained early in the year 1861, when Major Robert Anderson, then in command of all the defenses of the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, secretly removed his garrison and supplies from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, because the latter could be more easily defended in case of an assault. The people of the South claimed that this move was a direct violation of an agreement with President Buchanan, and the feeling was intensified when it was discovered that Major Ander- son, prior to his removal, had spiked all the guns in Fort Moultrie. On the other hand, the press of the North was practically unanimous in justifying Anderson's course and in demanding that additional supplies and reinforcements be sent to him at Fort Sumter. The persistent hammering of the northern press caused the war department to despatch the steamer "Star of the West" with 250 men and a stock of ammunition, provisions, etc., to Fort Sumter, but on January 9, 1861, while passing Morris Island, the vessel was fired upon by a masked battery and forced to turn baek. In the official records this incident is regarded as the beginning of the Civil War, though the popular awakening of the North did not come until some three months later.

## FALL OF FORT SUMTER

Not long after President Lincoln was inaugurated General Beauregard, who was in command of the Confederate forces at Charleston made a demand upon Major Anderson for the evacuation of Fort Sumter. Anderson refused, but on April 11, 1861, seeing his stock of provisions in the fort running low and having no hope of obtaining a new supply, he informed General Beauregard that he would vacate the fort on the 15th, "unless ordered to remain and the needed supplies are received." This reply was not satisfactory to the Confederate commander, who feared that the new administration might find some way of sending reinforcements and supplies to Sumter that would enable Anderson to hold the fort indefinitely. In that case Fort Sumter would be a constant menace to one of the southern strongholds. After a conference with his officers Beauregard decided upon an assault. Accordingly, at twenty minutes past three o'clock on the morning of April 12, 1861, he sent word to Anderson that fire would be opened upon the fort. At four-thirty A. M. Captain George Janes fired the signal gun from Fort Johnson, the shell bursting almost directly over the fort. A few seconds later a solid shot from the battery on Cumming's Point went crashing against the walls of the fort. The war had begun.

Anderson's gallant little band responded promptly to the fire and the bombardments continued all day. Late in the afternoon fire broke out in one of the casements of the fort and the Confederates increased their fire, hoping to force the surrender of Anderson. That was on Friday. Anderson held out against desperate odds until Sunday, the 14th, when he was permitted to evacuate the fort with all the honors of war, even to saluting his flag with fifty guns before hauling it down.

When the news of Sumter's fall spread through the loyal states of the North all hope of bringing about a peaceable settlement of the differences was abandoned. Party lines were obliterated. Political controversies of the past were forgotten in the insult to the flag. There was but one sentiment—the Union must and shall be preserved. On Monday, April 15th, 1861, the day following Anderson's evacuation of the fort, President Lincoln issued the following

## PROCLAMATION

"Whereas, the laws of the United States have been for some time past and are now opposed and the execution thereof obstructed in the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed

by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law:

“Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the Laws, have thought fit to call forth and hereby do call forth the militia of the several states of the Union to the aggregate number of 75,000, in order to suppress said combinations and cause the laws to be fully executed.

“The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the state authorities through the War Department

“I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity and the existence of our national Union and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already too long endured.

“I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country.

“And I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

“Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both houses of Congress. Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o’clock, noon, on Thursday, the 4th day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

“In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

“Done at the city of Washington this 15th day of April, A. D., 1861, and of the Independence of the United States, the 85th.

“ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

“By the President:

“W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.”

## SENTIMENT IN IOWA

On the 16th, the day following the issuance of the President's proclamation Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood of Iowa received the following telegram from the secretary of war:

"Calls made on you by tonight's mail for one regiment of militia for immediate service."

It is said that when this message was delivered to the governor he expressed some doubts as to Iowa's ability to furnish an entire regiment. Notwithstanding his doubts on the subject, as soon as the call was received, he issued his proclamation asking for volunteers, to wit:

"Whereas, the President of the United States has made a requisition upon the executive of the state of Iowa for one regiment of militia, to aid the federal government in enforcing its laws and suppressing rebellion:

"Now, therefore, I, Samuel J. Kirkwood, Governor of the State of Iowa, do issue this proclamation and hereby call upon the militia of the state immediately to form in the different counties volunteer companies with a view of entering the military service of the United States for the purpose aforesaid. The regiment at present required will consist of ten companies of at least seventy-eight men each, including one captain and two lieutenants, to be elected by each company.

"Under the present requisition only one regiment can be accepted and the companies accepted must hold themselves in readiness for duty by the 20th of May next at the farthest. If a sufficient number of companies are tendered, their services may be required. If more companies are formed and reported than can be received under the present call, their services will be required in the event of another requisition upon the state.

"The Nation is in peril. A fearful attempt is being made to overthrow the Constitution and disperse the Union. The aid of every loyal citizen is invoked to sustain the general government. For the honor of our state let the requirements of the President be cheerfully and promptly be met.

"SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

"Iowa City, April 17, 1861."

As the first telegram from the war department called for one regiment of militia for immediate service and Governor Kirkwood stated in his proclamation that the companies "must hold themselves in readiness for duty by the 20th of May," a word of explanation as to this apparent discrepancy seems to be necessary. The explanation

is found in the fact that late on the afternoon of April 16, 1861, the governor received a second telegram from the secretary of war, saying: "It will suffice if your quota of volunteers be at its rendezvous by the 20th of May."

On the same day that Governor Kirkwood issued his call for volunteers he also issued a call for the state legislature to meet in special session on May 16th. At the opening of the special session he said in his message: "In this emergency Iowa must not and does not occupy a doubtful position. For the Union as our fathers formed it and for government founded so wisely and so well the people of Iowa are ready to pledge every fighting man is the state and every dollar of her money and credit, and I have called you together in extraordinary session for the purpose of enabling them to make the pledge formal and effective."

He then explained how, when the volunteer call came from Washington, he had no funds under his control for such emergencies as organizing, equipping, subsisting and transporting troops, nor had the state any effective military law under which he could operate. He also explained how the chartered banks and wealthy loyal citizens of the state had come to his rescue by placing at his disposal all the funds he might need, and concluded this portion of his message by saying: "I determined, although without authority of law, to accept their offer, trusting that this body would legalize my acts."

And the governor did not trust in vain. The immediate and universal response to his call for volunteers had removed any doubt he might have entertained as to Iowa's ability to furnish a whole regiment. The general assembly crystallized the patriotic sentiment of the people by legalizing everything the governor had done, by passing a law providing for the organization of the militia of the state upon a war footing, appropriating a sum of money large enough to cover all probable expenses in connection therewith.

#### RESPONSE IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

The United States census of 1860 gives Winnebago a total population of only 168 people. The county had not been organized a great while and consequently the number of volunteers available in so sparse a community would be necessarily small. At the beginning of the war there were no newspapers in the county, mail trains or telegraph communication with the outside world. The only means of communication was by the slow mail route and events happened weeks before the intelligence of them was borne to the settlers here. When the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter reached the county there was unani-

mous condemnation of the South and enthusiasm to join the colors immediately. This was natural, as but few votes had been cast in 1860 against Lincoln and Hamlin. There were a few who voted the democratic ticket, but these were quickly lined up with the North when the two sides of the country came to blows.

Winnebago County was quick to respond to the call of the President and the proclamation issued by Governor Kirkwood. The board of county supervisors met in August, 1862, present, Chairman C. D. Smith, A. T. Cole and John H. T. Ambrose. Among other business transacted the following motion was passed:

“That each volunteer shall receive a bounty of \$50 out of the county fund at the time of enlistment. Also, that each volunteer’s wife shall receive from the clerk \$1 per week and each child fifty cents per week during the time said volunteer is in the service of the United States, or until the present war is ended.”

On December 14, 1863, the board of supervisors in session adopted a resolution as follows:

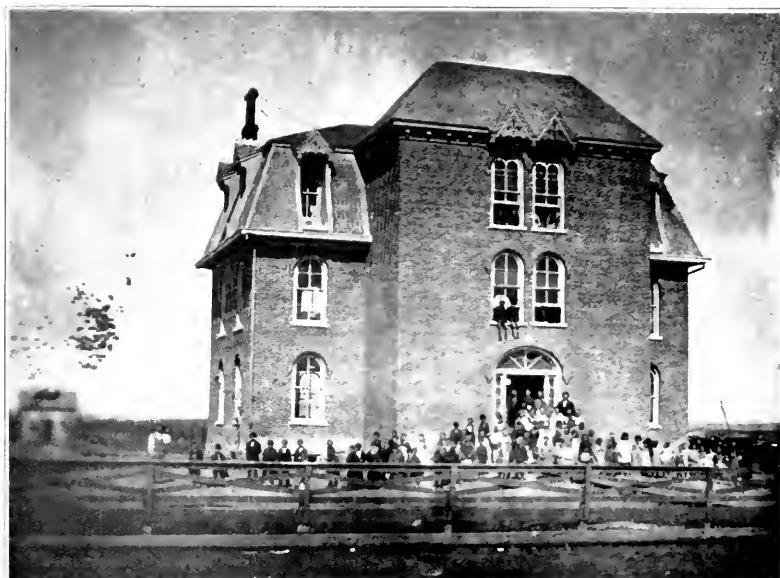
“Resolved, that anyone who will volunteer from this county before the 5th of January, 1864, or before there is a draft in the state, or county, shall receive the sum of \$200, and anyone who is drafted shall receive the sum of \$100, the warrants to be issued when each volunteer or drafted person is accepted into the United States service.”

In August, 1864, the board further decreed that “each volunteer or drafted man from the county under the call of the President for 500,000 men, should receive a bounty of \$200, and that the wife and each child under thirteen years of age should receive \$1 a week apiece for their support while said volunteer was in the service of the United States.”

At a meeting of the board January 10, 1865 the following resolution was passed:

“Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Winnebago County, Iowa, that the sum of \$1,000 be, and the same is hereby appropriated to each and every person volunteering from said county to fill the quota of each township of the said county; said appropriation to be paid in warrants on the treasury of the County, said warrants to be payable one half in one year from date, and one half in two years from date of their issuance, and to draw interest at the rate of six per cent per annum.”

On January 5, 1866 the board again took action of interest to the soldiers. They ordered that “all soldiers of Winnebago County who had received less than \$300 bounty shall receive enough to equal that sum, and the clerk is hereby ordered to issue warrants to make up the difference.” The warrants so issued were to bear interest at the



THE OLD BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE, FOREST CITY, IN 1876

Teachers: Professor Guthrie; W. H. May; Elsie Cooper;  
Mary Pickney Elder.



rate of six per cent and were payable one-third in one year and the balance in two years.

Thus did the county of Winnebago amply care for her citizens who enlisted in Uncle Sam's forces.

#### ROSTER

The following official list gives the names of the men from Winnebago County who served in the Rebellion, their company and their regiment:

##### TWELFTH U. S. REGULAR INFANTRY

###### *Company C* Privates

Harrison Beadle	B. F. Denslow
William Lackore, Jr.	David Stancliff
John Belt	J. B. Hill
John Oulman	Fred Porter
Louis Porter	John Beadle

##### SECOND IOWA INFANTRY

###### *Company C* Privates

David Secor	C. H. Lackore
Hans Knudtson	

##### THIRTY-SECOND IOWA INFANTRY

###### *Company B* Second Lieutenant Samuel W. Griffin

###### Corporals

Chandler W. Scott	Milton P. Goodell
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###### Privates

Allen T. Cole	Hiram K. Landru
Eugene B. Oulman	Samuel Temmis, Jr.
Charles C. Church	

##### FOURTH CAVALRY

###### *Company C* Private John W. Collier

## EIGHTH IOWA VETERAN INFANTRY

*Company F*

## Privates

Charles C. Church

James Lackore

## SECOND CAVALRY

*Company I*

## Privates

Sylvester Belcher

David Lutz

Cornelius A. Baker

Simon Trumbull

## THOSE WHO DIED

Winnebago County did not escape from the Rebellion without loss among her gallant sons. Iowa suffered immeasurably in this struggle of Americans and this county bore her share.

B. F. Denslow perished in Libby Prison of starvation. David Stancliff fell in the seven days' fight before Richmond in July, 1862. He received seven bullets in his body and died within a few hours. Milton P. Goodell was wounded and captured at the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864, and died just one month later. William Lackore, Jr., died shortly after his discharge from the United States service, from the effects of being struck upon the chest by a shell fragment. Sammel Tennis, Jr., died June 9, 1864, while in the service, of brain fever brought on by exposure.

## CHAPTER IX

### THE BENCH AND BAR

BEGINNING OF CIVIL LAW—PURPOSE OF THE COURTS—TERRITORIAL COURTS—DISTRICT COURT—MENTION OF DISTRICT JUDGES—THE CIRCUIT COURT—LIST OF COUNTY ATTORNEYS—THE BAR—THE LAWYER AS A CITIZEN—SKETCHES OF PIONEER LAWYERS—THE PRESENT BAR.

Civil law made its appearance as soon as men began to realize that they were dependent upon each other, and that some system of rules was necessary for the protection of person and property—rules that would promote the general interest without trampling upon the rights of the individual. The legislator and the lawyer therefore made their appearance with the very dawn of civilization. At first the laws were few and simple and the methods of the primitive courts were doubtless crude as compared with those of modern times. But as the occupations and business interests of the people became more diversified through the needs of advancing civilization, the laws became more complex and were arranged into codes.

“To establish justice” was written into the Federal Constitution by the founders of the American Republic as one of the primary and paramount purposes of government. To establish courts through which the safety of person and the rights of property shall alike be securely safeguarded! The founders of the republic also showed their wisdom in separating the functions of government into three departments—the legislative, the executive and the judicial—the first to enact, the second to enforce and the third to interpret the nation’s laws. States have copied this system and in every state there is a Legislature to pass laws, a supreme and subordinate courts to interpret them, and a governor as the chief executive officer to see that they are fairly and impartially enforced.

#### TERRITORIAL COURTS

When the territory of Iowa was organized in 1838, Charles Mason, who lived in Burlington, Iowa, was appointed chief justice; Joseph Williams, of Pennsylvania, and Thomas S. Wilson, of Dubuque, associate justices. Upon these three men devolved the duty of holding court at such places as their presence might be required, anywhere in

the entire territory. It would be an arduous task for three judges to attempt to hold court and settle all the disputes in Iowa now, but in 1838 there were only a few settlements along the eastern border. All three of these judges continued on the bench until Iowa was admitted into the Union in 1846. Judge Mason was the first chief justice of the State Supreme Court until he resigned in June, 1847, when he was succeeded by Judge Williams.

#### DISTRICT COURT

When Winnebago County was created in 1851, it was placed in the Fifth Judicial District, which included practically all Northwestern Iowa, and of which Cave J. McFarland was judge. No provisions were made for holding court in the county, for the reason that at that time it had not a single white inhabitant. Judge McFarland retired from the bench about the time Winnebago County was settled, and about the same time the state was redistricted for judicial purposes, Winnebago being included in the Fourth Judicial District, of which Asahel W. Hubbard, of Sioux City, was elected judge in 1857. Before Judge Hubbard had an opportunity to hold court in Winnebago County the state was again redistricted and the county was made a part of the Eleventh Judicial District, which was composed of the counties of Boone, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Marshall, Story, Webster, Winnebago and Wright.

John Porter, of Hardin County, was the first judge of the Eleventh District. He was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1828, and passed his boyhood there, working on a farm or in a mill during the summer months and attending the public schools in the winter seasons. At the age of eighteen years he began teaching in the common schools and followed that profession for about three years. He then entered the law office of Todd, Hoffman & Hutchins, one of the leading law firms of Warren, Ohio, where he studied for several years and in 1854 was admitted to the bar. The same year he located at Plymouth, Indiana, and practiced there for two years, when he came to Iowa, first locating at Mason City, but later removing to Eldora. In 1858 he was elected judge of the Eleventh Judicial District and remained on the bench until 1866, when he resigned to engage in the practice of his profession.

Judge Porter presided at the first term of the District Court ever held in Winnebago County, in June, 1859. The records of that term were burned and the oldest record of the District Court in and for Winnebago County is that of June, 1862. Judge Porter also presided at this term. The grand jury for the term was drawn from the fol-

lowing list: E. A. Ames, John S. Anderson, H. S. Botsford, Darius Bray, A. P. Harper, David Lentz, Charles Lutz, Augustus Oulman, John Oulman, David Secor (foreman), Eugene Secor, Charles D. Smith, Samuel Tennis, George W. Thomas and B. F. Wellman.

The following citizens of the county were summoned as petit jurors: John H. T. Ambrose, John S. Blowers, J. K. Boyd, Charles Church, James Church, Robert Clark, J. H. Day, George Lackore, Hudson Lackore, James Lackore, William Lackore, James Pinckney, C. A. Stedman, Edwin Trumbull and Simon Trumbull.

In 1864 the Twelfth Judicial District was created, consisting of the counties of Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth. William B. Fairfield was elected the first judge of this district and began his judicial duties on January 1, 1865.

Judge Fairfield was a native of New York, where he was educated, studied law and was admitted to the bar. At the time of his election to the bench he was practicing law at Charles City, the county seat of Floyd County. He is remembered by old attorneys as a man of commanding appearance, well educated, thoroughly versed in the law, but one who "liked to take things easy." He lacked much of that reserve which so often distinguishes judges. In 1870 he resigned his position on the bench and engaged in the banking business at Charles City, in which he continued until his death some years later.

George W. Ruddick, of Bremer County, succeeded Judge Fairfield. He was born in Sullivan County, New York, May 13, 1835. His early education was acquired in the common schools of his native country, but at the age of fourteen years he entered an academy at Chester, Ohio, where he studied for one year. He then read law with A. C. Niven, of Monticello, Ohio, and in April, 1856, graduated at the Albany Law School. Upon receiving his diploma from that institution he was admitted to practice in the courts of New York, but decided to try his fortunes in the West. In July, 1856, he located at Waverly, Iowa, and quickly established himself in practice. The Circuit Court was established by the Legislature of 1868, and in the fall of that year Mr. Ruddick was elected one of the circuit judges. When Judge Fairfield resigned in 1870, Judge Ruddick was appointed to the vacancy by Governor Merrill and continued to serve as district judge until 1892.

Porter W. Burr, of Floyd County, succeeded Judge Ruddick and began his official term in January, 1893. He was a good lawyer before going upon the bench and made a capable judge, but he declined a second term, preferring to engage in private practice. In 1897 he was succeeded by Jefferson F. Clyde, of Mitchell County. That Judge Clyde was a good judge is evidenced by the fact that he was reelected in 1900, 1904 and 1908, serving four full terms of four years each. His

successor, Millard F. Edwards, of Butler County, was elected in November, 1912.

As there have been two judges in the Twelfth Judicial District since 1886, a word of explanation as to how this was brought about may not be amiss. The constitution of 1857, Article V, Section 1, provides that: "The Judicial power shall be vested in a supreme court, district court, and such other courts, inferior to the supreme court, as the General Assembly may, from time to time, establish." Under this authority the Legislature of 1868 created a tribunal known as the

#### CIRCUIT COURT

The act establishing the Circuit Court provided that the State of Iowa should be divided into two circuits. Harvey N. Brockway, of Hancock County, and George W. Ruddick, of Bremer County, were the circuit judges whose jurisdiction extended over the Twelfth Judicial District. In 1870 Judge Ruddick was appointed district judge, as already stated, and Robert G. Reiniger, of Floyd County, succeeded him upon the circuit bench. When Judge Brockway's term expired in 1872 no successor was elected, the circuit after that time having but one judge. In 1884 John B. Cleland was elected to succeed Judge Reiniger. His home was at Osage, Mitchell County, where he had been engaged for several years in the practice of law before his elevation to the bench. He served until the Circuit Court was abolished by an act of the Legislature.

At the general election on November 4, 1884, the people of the state ratified the following constitutional amendment relating to the judicial department of the state: "At any regular session of the General Assembly, the state may be divided into the necessary judicial districts for District Court purposes, or the said districts may be reorganized and the number of districts and the judges of said courts increased or diminished; but no reorganization of the districts or diminution of the judges shall have the effect of removing a judge from office."

Pursuant to the authority conferred by this amendment, the Legislature passed the act abolishing the Circuit Court, which act was approved by Governor Larrabee on April 10, 1886. That act also divided the state into eighteen judicial districts and provided for two judges in the Twelfth District. Judge Cleland, who was then circuit judge, was appointed as the second judge in the Twelfth District and served until the general election of 1888, when John C. Sherwin was elected as his successor. Judge Sherwin was a resident of Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, and was a man of exceptional

ability. He served as district judge until November 7, 1899, when he was elected one of the judges of the Iowa Supreme Court and was succeeded as district judge by Clifford P. Smith, of Cerro Gordo County. Judge Smith was in turn succeeded in 1908 by Joseph J. Clark, of Mason City, who was reelected in 1912 and again in 1916.

A third judge was added to the Twelfth District by the act of 1898. Charles H. Kelley, of Charles City, Floyd County, was elected to the office, which he has held continuously by reelection since that time. At the beginning of the year 1917 the judges of the district court for the district were: Charles H. Kelley, Millard F. Edwards and Joseph J. Clark.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS

Prior to 1886 the district or prosecuting attorneys held their office by appointment. The following amendment to the fifth article of the state constitution was adopted by the voters of the state at the general election on November 4, 1884: "Section 13, The qualified voters of each county shall, at the general election in the year 1886, and every two years thereafter, elect a county attorney, who shall be a resident of the county for which he is elected, and shall hold his office for two years, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified."

Under this provision the following have served as county attorneys of Winnebago County, the year in which each was elected also being given: C. L. Nelson, 1886; C. H. Kelley, 1892; Andrew Miller, 1896; Oliver Gorden, 1898; T. A. Kingland, 1904; G. H. Belsheim, 1908; Homer A. Brown, 1910 (to fill a vacancy); L. A. Jensen, 1910 (for a full term); Thomas Boynton, 1916.

#### THE BAR

The law is a jealous profession. It demands of the judge on the bench and the attorney at the bar alike a knowledge of the law, a respect for the rights of litigants, and a conscientious effort to interpret rightly the laws of the land. Within recent years the courts have come in for some caustic criticisms because of what seems to have been needless delays, and a great deal has been said in the public press about "judicial reform." The lawyer has been made the butt of ridicule by some of the great novelists, but it should be borne in mind that many of the really great men in our national history were lawyers. John Marshall, one of the early chief justices of the United States Supreme Court, was a man whose memory is revered by the American people and his opinions are still quoted with confidence by members of his profession. Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe, who negotiated the Louisiana Pur-

chase and gave to their country an empire in extent, were lawyers. Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Thomas H. Benton, Salmon P. Chase, Thomas M. Cooley, Stephen A. Douglas, and a host of other eminent Americans wrote their names upon the pages of history through their knowledge of the laws. Their loyalty, patriotism and love of justice cannot be questioned. And last, but not least, stands the name of Abraham Lincoln, self-educated and self-reliant, whose consummate tact and statesmanship saved the Union from disruption.

While Winnebago County has never produced a lawyer whose fame has "startled the nation," the members of the local bar have always been equal to the task of handling the litigation that has come before the District Court. In the early history of the county there were not many cases in the courts and the early lawyers frequently engaged in some other line of business in connection with their professional practice. A majority of them were politicians and were occasionally called upon to serve the public in some office, the salary of which helped them to "tide over" until such time as there was more business for them to handle as attorneys.

The first lawyer to locate in Winnebago was Jeremiah Murphy, or "Jerry," as he was commonly called, who located at Forest City about the time the county was organized in 1857. He is said to have been a good lawyer for that period, witty and sarcastic when occasion demanded, and never hesitated to use any means to win. He has been described as "considerable of a sport," always wore a white plug hat and carried a cane. To add to his income he gave a great deal of attention to the real estate business. He left the county after a residence of about one year and it is not known what became of him.

J. K. Boyd, the second resident attorney, came to Forest City in 1861. He served for a short time as county judge and also kept a hotel. A good story is told of "Judge" Boyd, which illustrates the resourcefulness of the man, though it reflects but little credit upon his profession. It seems that A. B. Tuttle, later a resident of Mason City, had some orders that had been issued by the Forest school district and had sent them to Boyd for collection. At that time the revenues of Winnebago were somewhat meager and the authorities found it easier to issue orders than to pay them. Boyd collected some of the orders, but failed to remit to Mr. Tuttle. Failing to receive satisfactory replies to his letters, Mr. Tuttle came to Forest City to find out what was the matter. Boyd admitted that he had collected a portion of the money due on the orders, but his bill for fees amounted to more than the total sum collected. When Tuttle protested he was met with the remark: "You know, Mr. Tuttle, we lawyers must live," and the client departed without receiving a cent of his money.



STATE BANK OF THOMPSON



DeWitt C. Hayes opened a law office in Forest City in 1867. He was a native of the state of New York, where he received an academic education and was for a time engaged in the grocery business. He then went to Wisconsin, where he became interested in the law and practiced some in the inferior courts. Returning to Watertown, New York, he studied in the office of Brown & Beach for about a year, when he was admitted to the bar. In the fall of 1866 he came to Iowa, locating at Charles City and forming a partnership with Starr & Patterson, but the next year he came to Forest City. He was a sharp, shrewd lawyer, quick to see a point and take advantage of it, and was generally successful in the conduct of his cases. Soon after locating in Forest City he formed a partnership with Martin Cooper, under the firm name of Hayes & Cooper. This partnership lasted about a year, when Mr. Hayes went to Floyd County and purchased a farm. A little later he gave up the law entirely and devoted himself to his agricultural interests.

Martin Cooper, who is mentioned in the above paragraph as a partner of Mr. Hayes, came to Forest City soon after the close of the Civil war. In 1869 he was elected county superintendent of schools. He was a careful, painstaking lawyer and practiced in the county for at least a quarter of a century.

D. T. Gibson, a native of Chautauqua County, New York, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar, began practice in Forest City in the spring of 1870. He had been there but a short time when he was persuaded by W. C. Stanberry to remove to Mason City. Still later he went to Waverly, where he formed a partnership with E. A. Dawson, under the firm name of Gibson & Dawson, which became recognized as one of the prominent law firms of Bremer County.

T. C. Ransom came to Winnebago County about the same time as Mr. Gibson. He was born in Hartford County, Connecticut, September 22, 1824. A few years after his birth his parents removed to Litchfield County, where he attended school and learned the shoemaker's trade. Soon after attaining to his majority he began the study of law with Hiram Goodwin, and finished his legal preparation under O. H. Pratt, afterward United States senator. He was admitted to the bar in 1859 and soon afterward came to Iowa, locating first in Clayton County. Early in 1870 he came to Forest City, where he established himself in a paying practice. In 1877 he was appointed prosecuting attorney for Winnebago County and held the office for three years. For some time he was the senior member of the law firm of Ransom & Olmstead. Mr. Ransom is deceased and his former partner, W. W. Olmstead, is now living on the Pacific coast, retired from active practice.

C. L. Nelson, the first lawyer to be elected to the office of county attorney under the constitutional amendment of 1884, was born near Christiania, Norway, March 13, 1846. When about six years old his parents came to America and settled in Wisconsin. Four years later they came to Winnebago County, locating a farm in Norway Township. Young Nelson attended the common schools and later studied in the Decorah Normal Institute, where he fitted himself for a teacher and followed that occupation for several years. In 1876 he was appointed deputy sheriff under Peter Lewis and became interested in the law. He studied under Ransom & Olmstead and was admitted in September, 1878. In 1886 he was elected county attorney and held the office until 1892. Mr. Nelson is now living at Ballard, Washington, where he holds some minor public office.

W. A. Chapman was born near Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1842. While still in his childhood his parents removed to Canada, where he lived until reaching his majority. He then came to the United States and taught school for several years in New York and Illinois and in 1873 located at Lake Mills. Three years later he was admitted to the bar and built up a satisfactory practice. In 1875 and again in 1889 he was elected county superintendent of schools, a position for which his former experience as teacher gave him special qualifications.

Other attorneys of by-gone days were: J. T. Lattimore, Henry W. Ames, John Dunbar, A. H. Chase, E. F. Thompson, J. T. Kean, J. D. Leland and W. C. Harwood. Mr. Lattimore was a native of Pennsylvania; studied law with Judge Wilbur in Mason City, and after practising for a time in Forest City became connected with the Forest City Bank. Henry W. Ames came to Forest City in 1871 but remained only a short time. John Dunbar was admitted to the bar at Forest City in 1875, practised there for about two years, and then went to Cedar Falls. After practising there until 1879 he returned to Winnebago County and engaged in farming. Mr. Chase was admitted on a certificate from the State of New York, but turned his attention to journalism and was for some time editor of the Winnebago Summit. J. T. Kean practised at Lake Mills from 1880 to 1882, when he went to Washington City and took a position in the office of the adjutant-general. J. D. Leland was for a time in partnership with W. H. Fisher, when they moved to Leland. W. C. Harwood was a member of the firm of Pickering, Hartley & Harwood, of Northwood, Minnesota, and took charge of the branch office of that firm at Lake Mills when it was established in 1879. All these old lawyers are either dead or have moved away, but most of them left the impress of their characters upon the legal history of the county.

## THE PRESENT BAR

A recent docket of the District Court gives the following list of Winnebago County attorneys at the beginning of the year 1917: Forest City—J. E. Anderson, Homer A. Brown, Oliver Gorden, J. E. Howard, L. A. Jensen, J. M. Jensen, Alan Loth, George Osmundson, Burt J. Thompson and J. F. Thompson; Lake Mills—H. H. Dorland and T. A. Kingland; Buffalo Center—Thomas Boynton and B. L. Sifford. Of these attorneys, J. E. Anderson, J. E. Howard and J. F. Thompson are not engaged in active practice. The law firms of the county are Gorden & Osmundson, Jensen & Jensen, and Thompson, Loth & Sifford.

## CHAPTER X

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

MEDICINE IN ANCIENT TIMES—THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH—EVOLUTION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE—HOME REMEDIES ON THE FRONTIER—THE PIONEER DOCTOR—HIS CHARACTER AND STANDING AS A CITIZEN—HIS METHODS OF TREATMENT—HARDSHIPS OF FRONTIER PRACTICE—EARLY PHYSICIANS OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY—PRESENT DAY PHYSICIANS—MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

In an elementary form at least, the practice of medicine is almost as old as the human race. When the first man was afflicted by some bodily ailment, he sought among the plants for one that would relieve his suffering. If a remedy was found the information was imparted to a neighbor, and perhaps a supply of the plant was garnered for future use. Other plants were added as they were discovered and thus, step by step, a pharmacopœia was built up and the practice of medicine developed into a science.

A Chinese tradition says that the practice of medicine was introduced in that country by the Emperor Hwang-ti in the year 2887 B. C. In India the practice of medicine is very ancient, the physicians coming from the upper caste, and demonology played a conspicuous part in their diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Among the ancient Egyptians there were specialists as early as 1600 B. C. The Hebrews originally held to the theory that disease was a punishment for sin, but after the two captivities they had their regular practicing physicians and surgeons. Æsculapius was the god of health in ancient Greece, and “Galen the Greek” taught medical classes in Rome soon after the beginning of the Christian Era. He was the first physician to lay special stress upon the study of anatomy as an essential part of the physician’s professional education. Hippocrates, another Greek, who lived from 460 to 377 B. C., has been called the “Father of Medicine.” He required his pupils to take an oath in the name of “Apollo, the physician, Æsculapius, Hygeia, Panacea, and all the gods and goddesses; to reckon him who teaches me this art equally with my parents; to look upon his offspring as my brothers; to share with him my substance and to relieve his necessities if required; to pass my life and practice my art with purity and holiness; and whatsoever in connection with my professional practice—or not in connection

with it—I may see or hear, that will I not divulge, holding that all such things should be kept secret."

There was a revival of the Hippocratic oath among the doctors of the Middle Ages, and in more modern times a few medical schools required a similar obligation of their alumni. Some of the principles laid down in the oath of Hippocrates form the basis of the professional code of ethics among the physicians of the present day.

It was not until the year 1315 A. D. that a systematic study of human anatomy by dissection was commenced by an Italian physician named Mondino. When the populace learned that Doctor Mondino was actually cutting up the dead body of a human being he was compelled to apply to the authorities for protection against the mob, and Hart says "that protection was granted somewhat reluctantly." Yet what would modern surgery amount to had it not been developed by a careful study of the intricate mechanism of the human body through the medium of dissection? This incident is only one of many the profession has had to encounter when science comes in conflict with the preconceived notions of the conservative multitude. When Doctor Harvey announced his discovery of the circulation of the blood, and declared the passage of the blood through the arteries and veins of the body to be the source of life and health, he was scoffed at by the ignorant. Some priests even went so far as to charge him with blasphemy, asserting that man was kept alive "by the grace of God." Voltaire, the famous French author, defined a physician as "A man who crams drugs of which he knows little into a body of which he knows less." That may possibly have been true of a certain class of French empirics at the time it was written, but since then the medical profession has made almost marvelous progress and through the intelligent and concerted action of the physicians themselves the practice has been elevated to a higher plane.

Modern medical progress dates from the closing years of the Sixteenth Century. Soon after the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, was established in 1582 a medical department was added. In 1765 Dr. John Morgan and Dr. William Shippen, of Philadelphia, opened a medical school that afterward became the medical department of the College of Philadelphia. That was the first medical school in what is now the United States. At the present time nearly every state university has its medical department, and there is not a large city in the land in which there are not one or more medical colleges. With this wonderful increase in the facilities for obtaining a medical education, it is not surprising that the profession has made great strides within the memory of persons yet living, or that the physician of the present day is, with rare exceptions, a man entitled to the honor and

respect of the community, both for his professional ability and his standing as a citizen.

#### HOME REMEDIES

In the early settlements of the Middle West the pioneer followed the example of his primitive ancestor and was his own physician. Each family kept on hand a stock of roots, barks and herbs to "make medicine" and all common ailments were treated by the administration of home-made remedies. Old settlers of Winnebago County can doubtless recall the boneset tea, the burdock bitters, the decoctions of wild cherry bark, or the poultices and plasters that "Grandma" or "Aunt Mary" would prepare and apply—internally or externally, as the case seemed to demand—with as much solemnity as that displayed by the surgeon of the present day when he cuts open a man and robs him of his appendix. When one of the frontier inhabitants was stricken with illness, several of the neighbors would gather at the house, each to advocate his or her favorite remedy, and the result was often a case of "When doctors disagree there is none to decide."

There were two potent reasons for the use of home-made medicines. First, the nearest physician was frequently miles away, and second, very few of the early settlers had much money and therefore could not afford to employ a physician except when it became absolutely necessary. Then one of the neighbors would willingly stop his work to go for the doctor, no matter what the condition of the weather might be or how long it would require to make the trip.

#### THE PIONEER DOCTOR

No addition to the population of a frontier settlement was more welcome than the physician. Yet the life of the pioneer doctor was no sinecure. Money was a rare article and his fees, if he collected any at all, were many times paid in such produce as the pioneer farmers could spare and the doctor could use. About the only inducement for a doctor to locate in a new settlement was the notion that by being the first in the field he might establish a lucrative practice before competitors appeared. In this ambition some succeeded, others failed.

The old-time doctor was not always a graduate of a medical college. In a majority of cases his professional education had been obtained by "reading for a year or two with some older physician and assisting his preceptor in practice. When he felt that he was competent to begin practicing "on his own hook," he would look about for a location and, in many instances, some new settlement appeared to him

to offer the best opportunity for the exercise of his talents. Of course, not all the doctors in the frontier settlements were young men. Occasionally some physician, already established in practice, would be caught by the wanderlust and seek a new location in a young but growing community. If the professional and technical knowledge of the pioneer physician were limited, his stock of drugs, medicines, surgical instruments and appliances were equally limited. A generous supply of calomel, some jalap, aloes, Dover's powder, castor oil and a few other substances constituted his principal stock in trade. Sulphate of quinine was rare and was too expensive to be used indiscriminately, so in cases of malaria the doctor relied upon heroic doses of Peruvian bark. In cases of fever the orthodox treatment was to relieve the patient of a quantity of blood, hence every doctor provided himself with one or more lancets. Next to the lancet the most important surgical instrument was probably the "turnkey" for extracting teeth, for the doctor was dentist as well as physician. A story is told of a customer once complaining to a colored barber that the razor pulled, to which the darkey replied: "Yes, sah; I knows dat, boss, but if de razor handle doesn't break, de beard am bound to come off." So it was when the old-time doctor got that turnkey fastened on a tooth, for if the instrument did not break, the tooth was bound to come out. Compared with the present method of extracting teeth without pain, the old turnkey almost reminds one of the tortures of the Spanish Inquisition.

And yet these early doctors, crude as were many of their methods, were the forerunners of and paved the way for the specialists in these early years of the Twentieth Century. They were neither arrogant nor selfish as a rule, and if one of them discovered a new remedy, or a new application of an old one, he was always ready to impart his knowledge to his professional brethren. Moreover, many of them, as the population increased, refused to remain in the mediocre class and attended some established medical college, receiving the degree of M. D. even after they had been engaged in practice for years. This was especially true after the physicians began to organize themselves into medical societies, to which none was admitted without a diploma from some accredited medical college.

When the first doctors began practice in Winnebago County they did not visit their patients in automobiles. Even if the motor car had been invented at that time, the condition of the roads—where there were any roads at all—was such that the vehicle would have been practically useless. The doctor relied upon his trusty horse to carry him on his round of visits. His practice extended over a large district and frequently he had no road to follow except the "blazed trail"

through the timber or a faint path over the prairie. In making calls at night he adopted the custom of the sailor and guided his course by the stars. On starless nights he sometimes carried a lantern to aid him in finding the trail in case he wandered away from it in the darkness. After visiting his patient, if he did not remain with the family until morning, he would drop the reins upon the horse's neck and trust to the animal's instinct to find the way home. Written prescriptions would have been as useless as the automobile in frontier practice, as there were no drug stores convenient at which they could have been filled. To overcome this difficulty the doctor carried his medicines with him in a pair of "pill-bags"—a contrivance composed of two leathern boxes divided into compartments for vials of different sizes and connected by a broad strap that could be thrown over the rear of the saddle.

#### EARLY PHYSICIANS

The first resident physician of Winnebago County was Dr. W. H. Jones, who located at Forest City about Christmas in 1869. Before that the nearest doctors were at Clear Lake or Mason City, in Cerro Gordo County. Dr. W. H. Jones was born in Pembrokeshire, Wales, October 7, 1843. When nine years of age he came to America with his parents, who settled in Kane County, Illinois. A year later they removed to De Kalb County of the same state. His father, John H. P. Jones, was a graduate of the London Medical College and practiced for many years in Illinois. When about sixteen years of age, William H. Jones began the study of medicine with his father and was thus engaged when the Civil war broke out in 1861. He enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, as a private of Company D, and served until the close of the war. In 1865-66 he was a student in the Rush Medical College, of Chicago, but did not complete the course. In 1869 he located at Forest City, where he built up a good practice, and in 1873 he was graduated at the Keokuk Medical College. He was one of the organizers of the Medical Society of Northern Iowa, of which he was at one time vice president. He was a Mason and an Odd Fellow and is still remembered as a successful physician. Dr. William VanDuzen, the second physician to locate at Forest City, was a native of Wisconsin, his father having been a practicing physician of Mineral Point, in that state, for years. He read medicine with his father and graduated at the Miami Medical College in 1870. The following spring he came to Forest City, where he formed a partnership with Dr. W. H. Jones. After about six months he went back to Wisconsin, but later returned to Iowa and located in Iowa County, where he built up a good practice.



FLAX PALACE, FOREST CITY, 1892



In 1872 Dr. P. C. Jones located in Forest City. He was born in Wales on June 28, 1834, and was the son of a physician. In 1852 the family came to America and settled in DeKalb County, Illinois. Soon after coming to this country young Jones began the study of medicine under his father. He then attended the Rush Medical College of Chicago, and in 1872 graduated in the University of Medicine and Surgery of Philadelphia. He then practiced in Brown County, Wisconsin, for a few months and in the fall came to Forest City. He practiced in Winnebago County for about two years, when he went to Dysart, Tama County.

Shortly after Dr. P. C. Jones came to the county, Dr. Justin M. Hull established himself at Lake Mills. He was born near Madison, Wisconsin, in June, 1845, and received his education in the schools of his native county. In 1862 he enlisted as a private in Company L, Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and served about fourteen months, when he was honorably discharged on account of a wound received in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Soon after being discharged from the army he took up the study of medicine and graduated at the Bennett Medical College. After practicing in Wisconsin for a while he decided to try his fortunes in Iowa and located at Lake Mills, where he soon built up a lucrative practice for that day. In 1877 he was elected coroner of Winnebago County and held the office for one term, and in 1879 he was elected to the Legislature. In 1881 he was appointed a member of the State Board of Health by Governor Gear and three years later was reappointed by Governor Sherman. He was one of the founders of the Medical Society of Northern Iowa. Doctor Hull was an Odd Fellow and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was recognized generally as a capable physician and a progressive citizen.

Dr. J. A. Hewett, a graduate of the Bennett Medical College of Chicago, came to Forest City in 1874. He practiced successfully for several years in Winnebago and adjoining counties and was for some time one of the examining surgeons for pensions, having been appointed to that position in September, 1877.

In 1877 Dr. J. Wright came to Forest City from Osage, Mitchell County, where he had read for five years with Dr. J. E. Nichols. He then attended medical college and graduated, and he had the reputation of being a well qualified physician. He remained in the county only about one year.

Dr. J. W. David and Dr. J. B. Hirsh came to the county about the same time in 1879 or 1880. The former located in Forest City and the latter in Lake Mills. Doctor David was born in Richland County, Illinois, in February, 1841, and began the study of medicine

in 1862. He soon gave up his studies, however, to enter Company B, Thirtieth Wisconsin Infantry, which was sent to Minnesota to assist in suppressing the Indian uprising. In 1865 he was mustered out and a little later matriculated at the Rush Medical College of Chicago, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1869. He then practiced in Grant County, Wisconsin, until coming to Forest City. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Grand Army of the Republic.

Doctor Hirsch was also a graduate of the Rush Medical College and was a popular physician during his short residence in Winnebago County. After practicing about eighteen months in Lake Mills he went to Blue Earth, Minnesota.

Dr. C. E. Keeler, who located in Lake Mills in 1881, was a native of Black Hawk County, Iowa. While still in his boyhood his parents removed to Bristol, Worth County, where the father was engaged as a practicing physician. C. E. Keeler studied medicine with his father and in 1880 went to Nebraska, where he practiced for about a year. He then located at Lake Mills. In 1883 he was elected coroner of Winnebago County and held the office for one term. In 1887 he was again elected and served continuously until 1895. He also served as postmaster at Lake Mills for some time.

In May, 1881, Dr. David C. Aas came to Lake Mills and formed a partnership with Dr. J. M. Hull. He was born in Norway in April, 1853, and learned the trade of harness-maker in his native country. After coming to America he took up the study of medicine and graduated at the Bennett Medical College of Chicago in the spring of 1881. Immediately after receiving his degree he came to locate at Lake Mills, but his success was of short duration, as his death occurred on November 21, 1881.

Another physician who settled in Lake Mills in 1881 was Dr. W. L. Gundlach, a native of Germany, where he received a classical education. In 1883, after practicing in Lake Mills for over a year, he was graduated at Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Upon receiving his degree he returned to Lake Mills, where he continued in practice for a number of years.

Two physicians located in Forest City in 1883—Dr. Harry R. Irish and Dr. W. R. Franklin. Doctor Irish was born in Dane County, Wisconsin on October 1, 1860, and graduated in the medical department of the Iowa State University in the class of 1883, soon after which he came to Forest City, where he is still engaged in practice and is now the oldest doctor of the county in point of continuous residence. In 1891 he was a delegate from the Winnebago County Medical Society to the meeting of the Iowa State Medical Society.

Doctor Franklin was a native of Rockford, Illinois, and received his general education in the schools of that city. He then attended the Illinois State Normal School, after which he began the study of medicine with a Doctor Hill, of Rockford. In March, 1883, he graduated at the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College and came directly to Forest City, being the first homeopath to practice in Winnebago County.

#### PRESENT DAY PHYSICIANS

From the Medical Directory of 1916, published by the American Medical Association, the following list of Winnebago physicians has been compiled: Buffalo Center—George F. Dolmage and Hans E. Eiel; Forest City—Otto A. Hansen, Harry R. Irish, Thomas Lueast, Marion Blanche Neil, August J. Peterson, Harry F. Thompson and Peder H. Vesterborg; Lake Mills—Peter A. Helgeson, Gilbert G. Herm and Lawrence J. Kaasa; Rake—Jesse E. Russ; Thompson—Martin M. Hage and Gisle M. Lee.

#### MEDICAL SOCIETIES

The first medical society to which any of the Winnebago County physicians belonged was the Northern Iowa Medical Society which included several counties. Dr. W. H. Jones and Dr. Justin M. Hull, of Winnebago, were among the organizers of the society and in 1882 Doctor Jones was elected vice president. The records of the old organization have not been preserved and no accurate history of its work or membership can be given. It existed only a few years, when the settlement of the counties in the district it embraced brought in enough physicians to form county societies and the Northern Iowa Medical passed out of existence.

A medical society was organized in Winnebago County some time in the '80s, but its records have disappeared. Meetings were not held regularly, though a majority of the physicians practicing in the county were members of the society. After several years of inactivity, interest in the society was revived, and in the winter of 1912-13 it was consolidated with the Medical Society of Hancock County under the name of the Hancock-Winnebago Medical Society. Meetings are held at such times and places as may be selected by the executive committee, which has charge of the society's affairs. At the beginning of the year 1917, Dr. George F. Dolmage, of Buffalo Center, was president, and Dr. Benjamin F. Denny, of Britt, was secretary.

## CHAPTER XI

### STATISTICAL REVIEW

POPULATION AS SHOWN BY THE UNITED STATES CENSUS, SINCE 1860—STATE CENSUS OF 1915—WEALTH AND PROGRESS—CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS—VOTE FOR PRESIDENTS, SINCE 1864—OFFICIAL ROSTER—LIST OF COUNTY OFFICERS FROM 1857 TO 1917—IN THE LEGISLATURE—CONGRESSMEN.

In the spring of 1917 three score and two years had passed since Thomas Bearse, George W. Thomas and William Gilbert “pitched their tents” in Winnebago County. These three men and their families were the first white people to become actual residents of the county. For a few years the settlement made slow progress, but the work of developing the county’s resources has gone steadily forward from that day to the present. The United States census for 1910 shows only seven counties in the state having a smaller population than Winnebago. But it should be borne in mind that when the first settlers came to this county Iowa had fifty-one counties with a population of over three thousand each; that ten of these counties had a population of ten thousand or more, and that nine others were close to the ten thousand mark.

The first settlements in Winnebago County were far out on the frontier and nearly a quarter of a century elapsed before they were brought into communication with the rest of the state by a railroad. Yet in spite of all these disadvantages the growth of the county has been of the most encouraging nature. Three of the older counties of the state—Davis, Henry and Van Buren—showed a smaller population in 1910 than they did in 1860, while practically all the new counties of Northwestern Iowa have made a substantial increase. The growth of population in Winnebago, as shown by the United States census since 1860, the first official census taken after the county was organized, is shown in the following table:

1860	168
1870	1,562
1880	4,917
1890	7,325
1900	12,725
1910	11,914
1915 (State Census)	13,564

By a comparison of these figures it will be seen that, notwithstanding the Civil war and the Indian troubles in Minnesota and on the Iowa frontier, the greatest proportionate increase during any decade was between the years 1860 and 1870, when it was over 900 per cent. From 1870 to 1880 it was over 300 per cent. The next ten years witnessed a slackening in the growth of population, but between 1890 and 1900 there was a more substantial increase. The census of 1910 shows a loss of 811 during the preceding ten years. Part of this decrease may be accounted for by errors made in taking the enumeration, but it is quite probable that more of it may be accounted for by the opening of new lands in other parts of the country which presented opportunities to men of moderate means to acquire farms and homes with a smaller investment of capital.

The distribution of the inhabitants over the county, as shown by the state census of 1915, is given in the following table by townships and incorporated towns. Forest City and the other incorporated towns are included in the townships in which they are located, except in the case of Norway township, from which that portion of Scarville located in the township is left out, the entire population of that town being included in Logan Township.

TOWNSHIPS	
Buffalo	1,500
Center	2,194
Eden	623
Forest	3,030
Grant	666
King	1,183
Lincoln	719
Linden	599
Logan	676
Mount Valley	969
Newton	725
Norway	680
<hr/>	
Total for the county	13,564
TOWNS	
Buffalo Center	908
Forest City	2,135
Lake Mills	1,480
Leland	188
Rake	231
Scarville	162
Thompson	565
<hr/>	
Total living in towns	5,669

Deducting the town population from the total for the county leaves 7,895 people engaged in farming. The increase in wealth has been even greater than that of the population. The state census for 1905 gives the assessed valuation of the property of the county at \$2,996,868, and that of 1915 shows an assessment of \$4,975,984, exclusive of money and credits, which amounted to \$1,285,040 more. While the population increased between 1905 and 1915 a little less than 13 per cent, the valuation of property increased nearly 100 per cent. Statistics relating to the industries show that more capital has been invested; the values of farm lands and of farm products have greatly appreciated; more money has been expended in recent years for education and public improvements, and in 1916 the bank deposits were the largest of any year in the county's history.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

Three constitutional conventions have been held in the State of Iowa, but in two of them Winnebago County was not represented. A history of the first two conventions is given in Chapter II. At the time Iowa was admitted in 1846, all the northwestern part of the state was "unorganized territory," and Winnebago County was not created until five years later. The third constitutional convention met at Iowa City on January 19, 1857, and finished its labors on the 5th of the following March. Winnebago County had not yet been organized, as was the case of a number of the counties created in 1851. The thirty-fourth delegate district was composed of the counties of Bancroft, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Floyd, Hancock, Howard, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth, and was represented in the convention by John T. Clark.

#### PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

The following table gives the vote for President and Vice President of the United States in every election since the county was organized, with the exception of 1860, the election returns for that year having been among the records that were destroyed by fire. It is known, however, that Lincoln and Hamlin, the republican candidates received a majority of the votes. As Winnebago has always been a republican county, the names of the candidates of that party come first in every instance:

1864—	Lincoln and Johnson.....	39
	McClellan and Pendleton.....	13
1868—	Grant and Colfax .....	151
	Seymour and Blair .....	16

1872—Grant and Wilson .....	275
Greeley and Brown .....	37
1876—Hayes and Wheeler .....	498
Tilden and Hendricks .....	39
1880—Garfield and Arthur .....	701
Hancock and English.....	67
1884—Blaine and Logan.....	690
Cleveland and Hendricks.....	216
1888—Harrison and Morton.....	894
Cleveland and Thurman.....	218
1892—Harrison and Reid.....	1,079
Cleveland and Stevenson.....	342
1896—McKinley and Hobart.....	1,912
Bryan and Sewall .....	440
1900—McKinley and Roosevelt.....	2,051
Bryan and Stevenson.....	472
1904—Roosevelt and Fairbanks.....	2,002
Parker and Davis.....	174
1908—Taft and Sherman.....	1,628
Bryan and Kern.....	462
1912—Taft and Sherman.....	532
Wilson and Marshall.....	390
Roosevelt and Johnson (Progressive).....	1,095
1916—Hughes and Fairbanks.....	1,913
Wilson and Marshall.....	611

The “third party” movement has never gained much strength in Winnebago. In 1880 Gen. James B. Weaver, the greenback candidate, received 34 votes; in 1892 the populist party polled 157 votes and the prohibition party 31; in 1900 there were 52 votes classed as “scattering;” in 1912 there were 142 socialist and 132 prohibition votes cast, but in 1916 the socialist vote had dwindled to 23 and the prohibition vote to 5.

#### OFFICIAL ROSTER

The following list of county officials since the county was organized in 1857 has been compiled from the public records. It is believed to be as correct as such a list can be made and shows who have been entrusted with the public business of Winnebago County. The list also gives the year in which each officer was elected or entered upon the discharge of his duties. Most of the time the officers were elected for terms of two years. Where a period of several years elapsed between the election of any officer and that of his successor one or more reelections are indicated. A list of the judges of the District Court and county attorneys is given in the chapter on the Bench and Bar.

Clerks of Court—Benjamin F. Denslow, 1857; A. K. Curtis, 1860; E. D. Hinman, 1862; Eugene Secor, 1868; W. O. Hanson, 1876; Simon

Sogard, 1884; Gilbert S. Gilbertson, 1888; L. A. Jensen, 1896; J. H. Anderson, 1904; James B. Anderson, 1912 (still in office at the beginning of 1917).

Recorders—Charles H. Day, 1857; Philip Tennis, 1859 (failed to qualify and Mr. Day held over until 1861, when he was again elected for a full term); David Secor, 1863; J. P. Gardner, 1864; H. S. Botsford, 1866; Nelson K. Landru, 1868; E. L. Stillson, 1872; John Law, 1876; O. T. Severs, 1880; Ole S. Olson, 1886; T. G. Tweed, 1892; Henry Osmundson, 1896; Henry S. Johnson, 1900; J. H. Holmsen, 1906; J. O. Bergfald, 1910 (now serving his fourth term).

Auditors—Prior to 1869 the duties of county auditor were performed by the county judge or the clerk of the court. Since 1869 the following have held the office: Hiram K. Landru, 1869; Eugene Secor, 1875; Charles Isaacs, 1879; I. J. Kessey, 1887; John Isaacs, 1894; M. C. Halvorsen, 1896; L. A. Hauge, 1902; L. J. Nelson, 1906; C. K. Nelson, 1912.

Treasurers—The duties of treasurer and recorder were combined until 1864, when the office of recorder was established and J. P. Gardner was elected recorder. The treasurers since 1864 have been: David Secor, 1865; Robert Clark, 1867; Mikkel Peterson, 1877; B. A. Plumer, 1881; W. O. Hanson, 1885; S. H. Larson, 1891; J. G. Ostby, 1897; A. J. Johnson, 1903; W. S. Wadsworth, 1906; I. J. Kessey, 1914.

Sheriffs—John S. Blowers, 1857; M. P. Goodell, 1861; A. P. Harper, 1863; Charles Lutz, 1865; H. K. Landru, 1867; Peter Lewis, 1869; Jacob H. Twito, 1877; W. S. Wadsworth, 1887; M. C. Wheeler, 1891; C. J. Anderson, 1897; Ole Osmundson, 1906; J. H. Revell, 1910 (now serving his fourth term). Milton P. Goodell, who was elected sheriff in 1861, resigned soon after taking office to enter the army and John Maben was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Surveyors—C. W. Scott, 1857; Augustus Oulman, 1861; J. H. T. Ambrose, 1863; Augustus Oulman, 1865; J. H. T. Ambrose, 1869; W. C. Hayward, 1871 (resigned and W. A. Burnap appointed to the vacancy); O. T. Severs, 1873; J. H. T. Ambrose, 1875; Augustus Oulman, 1877 (resigned and J. H. T. Ambrose appointed to the vacancy); J. H. T. Ambrose, 1879; L. T. Thompson, 1883; J. H. T. Ambrose, 1887; L. T. Thompson, 1891; Augustus Oulman, 1895; J. H. T. Ambrose, 1896 (Oulman resigned); O. G. Rislow, 1910.

Coroners—Philip Tennis, 1858; Thomas Bearse, 1860; Darius Bray, 1863; G. P. Smith, 1867; D. C. Hayes, 1869; G. P. Smith, 1871; P. C. Jones, 1873; V. A. Jones, 1875; J. M. Hull, 1877; Y. G. Tweed, 1879; J. H. Brakke, 1881; C. E. Keeler, 1883; Eugene Secor, 1885; C. E. Keeler, 1887; J. H. McKay, 1895; G. M. Lee, 1897; W. H. Jones, 1901; O. A. Hansen, 1903; G. M. Lee, 1910; H. F. Thompson, 1912.



MAIN STREET, LAKE MILLS



FOURTH OF JULY, 1900, LAKE MILLS



County Superintendents—C. W. Scott, 1858; B. F. Denslow, 1859; Martin Bumgardner, 1861; Augustus Oulman, 1863; C. A. Stedman, 1865; Martin Cooper, 1869; A. L. Shay, 1871; W. W. Olmstead, 1873; W. A. Chapman, 1875; A. N. Brones, 1879; George A. Franklin, 1885; W. H. May, 1887; W. A. Chapman, 1889; L. C. Brown, 1893; K. N. Knudson, 1899; L. C. Brown, 1903. Mr. Brown was re-elected in 1906, 1908, 1910 and 1912. The law was then changed so that the county superintendent of schools is elected by the board of education. At the beginning of the year 1917 the office was held by Jessie M. Parker.

County Judges—At the time the County of Winnebago was organized in 1857, the county judge system was in operation under the new constitution, and that official transacted the greater part of the public business in his county. Robert Clark was elected county judge in 1857; J. K. Boyd, 1861; Samuel Tennis, 1863. By the act of March 2, 1860, the office of county judge was abolished and the board of supervisors was created, the members of which were to be elected at the general election in 1860 and take office on January 1, 1861. However, it appears that the people of Winnebago County continued to elect county judges until 1863, though the records show that the real business of the county was transacted by the board of supervisors. The county judge merely performed the duties of clerk to the board and was “more ornamental than useful” so far as the real management of public affairs was concerned.

Supervisors—The first board of supervisors for Winnebago County were elected in November, 1860, and the members assumed the duties of their office on January 1, 1861. Since that time the board for each year has been composed of the following members:

1861—E. D. Stockton, John Anderson and A. K. Curtis.

1862—Allen T. Cole, Charles D. Smith and A. K. Curtis.

1863—Charles D. Smith, William Lackore and B. F. Wellman.

1864—Same as 1863.

1865—Charles D. Smith, Joseph Tennis, Robert Clark and Jesse Bonar—one for each of the four townships of the county.

1866—Robert Clark, Jesse Bonar, Samuel Tennis and George Thomas.

1867—George Thomas, Ole Anderson, John H. T. Ambrose and Allen T. Cole.

1868—Allen T. Cole, Joseph Tennis, John H. T. Ambrose and S. D. Wadsworth.

1869—C. H. Lackore, William Higginbotham, A. N. Brones, John Iverson and S. D. Wadsworth.

1870—Same as 1869.

1871—Charles D. Smith, Benjamin F. Wellman and R. O. Haugh-

land. Since 1871 the board has consisted of only three members.

1872—W. O. Hanson, Charles D. Smith and R. O. Haughland.

1873—W. O. Hanson, A. N. Brones and Charles D. Smith.

1874—A. N. Brones, W. O. Hanson and S. D. Wadsworth.

1875—S. D. Wadsworth, A. N. Brones and P. H. Peterson.

1876—S. D. Wadsworth, P. H. Peterson and James W. Fisher.

1877—James W. Fisher, Knut Johnson and P. H. Peterson.

1878—Same as 1877.

1879—Same as 1877.

1880—Same as 1877.

1881—James W. Fisher, Knut Johnson and Andrew N. Honge.

1882—Knut Johnson, Andrew N. Honge and S. G. Honsey.

1883—S. G. Honsey, Andrew N. Honge and William Larson.

1884-85—Same as 1883.

1886—Andrew N. Honge, N. O. Styve and S. G. Honsey.

1887—S. G. Honsey, N. O. Styve and O. O. Ulve.

1888—N. O. Styve, O. O. Ulve and H. H. Mattison. Mr. Mattison died before the expiration of his term and James Ellickson was appointed to the vacaney.

1889—N. O. Styve, James Ellickson and O. O. Ulve.

1890-91—Same as 1889.

1892—James Ellickson, T. J. Folken and Henry Thompson. Mr. Ellickson resigned and A. B. Larson was elected for the remainder of the term for which he had been elected.

1893—T. J. Folken, A. B. Larson and Henry Thompson.

1894—Same as 1893.

1895—A. B. Larson, T. J. Folken and Michael Evenson. No change was made in the board during the next two years.

1898—T. J. Folken, A. B. Larson and J. J. Holland.

1899—J. J. Holland, T. J. Folken and O. O. Skuttle.

1900—J. J. Holland, O. O. Skuttle and A. B. Larson.

1901—Same as 1900.

1902—O. O. Skuttle, J. J. Holland and C. O. Thompson.

1903—C. O. Thompson, J. J. Holland and W. H. Combs. No change was made in the board during the three years following.

1907—C. O. Thompson, Albert Field and N. K. Anderson.

1908—N. K. Anderson, P. H. Moe and Albert Field.

1909-10—Same as 1908.

1911—N. K. Anderson, P. H. Moe and Albert Field until the death of Mr. Moe, when Henry Thompson was elected to the vacaney.

1912—Henry Thompson, N. K. Anderson and F. J. Raddle.

1913—Albert Field, F. J. Raddle and Ole Osmundson.

1914-15—Same as 1913.

1916—F. J. Raddle, Ole Osmundson and H. N. Hanson. This board was in office at the beginning of 1917.

#### IN THE LEGISLATURE

The first Legislature in which Winnebago County was represented was the Fourth, which met on December 6, 1854. It was one of the twenty-four counties composing a district which was represented in the senate by Andrew Y. Hull, and in the house by J. F. Rice, Joseph C. Goodson and Benjamin Green. From that time until 1903 Winnebago County was a part of various districts composed of two or more counties. Those from Winnebago who represented the district during that period were as follows: David Secor, elected in 1871 and reelected in 1873; Justin M. Hull, 1879; John E. Anderson, 1881; John W. Mahoney, 1887; John Law, 1889; James Elliekson, 1891; W. O. Hanson, 1897; Paul O. Koto, 1899, Eugene Secor, 1901.

From the time of the admission of the state in 1846 to 1856 the General Assembly met in December of the even numbered years. From 1856 to 1906 the opening of each session was in January of the even numbered years. At the general election on November 8, 1904, the voters of the state gave their endorsement to a constitutional amendment that abolished the elections in the odd numbered years and provided for biennial elections, beginning with the year 1906. Members of the Legislature, whose successors would have been chosen in the fall of 1905, had their terms of office extended until the election of 1906. The Thirty-first General Assembly met on January 8, 1906, and the Thirty-second on January 14, 1907. With this exception, and a few cases of special sessions, the Legislature has held its sessions biennially. At the time the constitutional amendment above referred to was adopted, Winnebago and Worth counties constituted a representative district. H. L. Olson, of Worth County, was elected in 1903 and had his term of office extended to 1906. Since that time Winnebago County has had a representative of its own and has sent the following members to the Legislature: C. N. Flugum, 1906; Lars W. Boe, 1908; Frank W. Russell, 1910; Thomas A. Kingland, 1912; Joseph H. Anderson, 1914—reelected in 1916.

Gilbert S. Gilbertson was elected to the state senate in 1895 and served in the two succeeding sessions; Lars W. Boe was elected in 1912 and was succeeded in 1916 by Thomas A. Kingland, the present state senator.

#### CONGRESSMEN

At the time Winnebago County was organized in 1857, there were only two congressional districts in the State of Iowa. Winnebago was

one of the counties in the Second District, which was then represented by Timothy Davis, of Dubuque. He was succeeded in 1860 by William Vandever, also of Dubuque. The census of 1860 showed that Iowa was entitled to six representatives in Congress. Winnebago was then placed in the Sixth District, which was represented during the next ten years as follows: Asahel W. Hubbard, of Sioux City, 1862; Charles Pomeroy, of Fort Dodge, 1868; Jackson Orr, of Boone County, 1870.

Three more congressmen were added to Iowa's representation by the census of 1870, and Winnebago County was placed in the Fourth District, of which Henry O. Pratt, of Charles City, was elected representative in 1872; Nathaniel C. Deering, of Mitchell County, 1876.

Since the census of 1880 Iowa has had eleven congressmen, and Winnebago County has been attached to the Tenth District, which is now composed of the counties of Boone, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Emmet, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Humboldt, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Webster and Winnebago. The representatives from this district have been as follows: Adoniram J. Holmes, of Boone, 1882 to 1888; Jonathan P. Dolliver, of Fort Dodge, 1888 to 1898; James P. Conner, of Denison, 1898 to 1908; Frank P. Woods, of Estherville, 1908 to 1917.

## CHAPTER XII

### MISCELLANEOUS

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—CROP STATISTICS—REMINISCENCES BY DAVID SECOR  
—PIONEER ADVENTURES—MORE OF INDIANS—RECOLLECTIONS OF J. F.  
THOMPSON.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Winnebago County Agricultural Society filed articles of incorporation August 4, 1887 "for the improvement of agriculture, horticulture, mechanical arts, and rural and domestic economy." The purpose of this society was to hold an annual fair in Winnebago County. The first officers were: Eugene Secor, president; J. J. Otis, first vice president; Andrew Charlson, second vice president; P. O. Koto, secretary; O. A. Olson, treasurer; R. N. Pomeroy, Buffalo; L. O. Dahlen, Center, Lars J. Flo, Eden, L. M. Mayes, Forest, B. B. Ketchum, Grant, P. J. Hugelen, King, O. B. Jewett, Lincoln, I. J. Kessey, Linden, T. J. Folken, Logan, William N. Higginbotham, Mount Valley, Edward McGreevey, Newton, H. S. Larson, Norway, S. Simmons, Forest City, board of directors.

This society was reincorporated February 10, 1900, as the Winnebago County Fair and Agricultural Society, with P. O. Koto as the first president.

An association similar in nature to the above was the Forest City Park and Fair Association, which filed articles of incorporation June 23, 1898 "to promote the interest of agriculture, horticulture, mechanical industry, and arts of science, to hold expositions and fairs, to offer and award premiums for the improvement of stock, tillage, crops, etc." The company, or association, was capitalized at \$10,000 and M. C. Wheeler was the first president.

That the various associations formed for these purposes have had plenty in the way of material may be judged from the crop reports of Winnebago County, which show the products of the county to occupy a high place, both in quality and quantity. The crops of the county as shown by the state Census of 1915 are as follows:

PRODUCT	ACRES	BUSHELS	VALUE
Corn .....	63,625	2,614,283	\$1,320,953
Wheat .....	6,633	74,427	68,803
Oats .....	46,554	1,547,821	632,376

Barley .....	2,973	58,379	34,279
Potatoes .....	1,114	111,681	43,010
Clover Seed .....	282	378	2,201
Flax Seed .....	1,152	7,883	10,406
Timothy Seed .....	218	991	2,138
Clover .....	5,369	9,326 tons	65,041
Timothy .....	11,760	17,525 "	110,794
Millet .....	170	290 "	1,155
Alfalfa .....	125	265 "	2,555
Wild Hay .....	23,045	26,314 "	124,557
Other Forage .....	1,034	2,640 "	14,466
Silage .....	1,304	10,085 "	32,977

LIVE STOCK, ETC.		HEAD	VALUE
Horses and Mules.....		10,568	\$ 948,751
Cattle .....		36,430	1,021,252
Milch Cows .....		12,841	504,508
Hogs .....		38,379	328,399
Sheep .....		1,143	5,488

MISCELLANEOUS		
Wool .....	5,590 lbs.	\$ 1,216 value
Poultry .....	219,434 fowls	95,849 value
Dozens of Eggs.....	897,307	150,503 value
Dairy Products .....		382,494 value

TOTAL VALUE		
Crops .....		\$2,465,711
Live Stock .....		2,808,398
Dairy Products .....		382,494
Eggs .....		150,503
Poultry .....		95,849
Wool .....		1,216
Total Value .....		\$5,904,171

In comparison with the above table, showing the figures upon the products of the county, the table of assessments again proves the financial stability of the county. The assessment for the year 1916 follows:

## TOWNSHIPS

Buffalo Township .....	\$ 372,475
Center Township .....	337,299
Eden Township .....	259,843
Forest Township .....	373,881
Grant Township .....	357,790
King Township .....	379,665
Lincoln Township .....	293,137
Linden Township .....	349,564
Logan Township .....	273,941
Mt. Valley Township .....	339,988
Newton Township .....	363,692
Norway Township .....	337,886
Total .....	\$4,039,161

## TOWNS

Buffalo Center .....	\$ 164,681
Forest City .....	326,274
Lake Mills .....	269,284
Leland .....	56,168
Rake .....	45,930
Searville .....	56,144
Thompson .....	102,972
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$1,021,453
Townships .....	\$4,039,161
Money and Credits .....	\$1,392,894
<hr/>	
Grand Total .....	\$6,453,508

## REMINISCENCE

BY DAVID SECOR

On a pleasant June morning, in the spring of 1859, in company with John Lamm, an old settler of Winnebago County, I started from Mason City, on foot, to look for the first time upon the land of the Winnebagoes. My traveling companion had resided for some time at Forest City, which was also familiarly known by the name of Puckner Brush.

About half way upon our journey we were confronted by a marshy slough not then bridged, and known as the "big slough," which was swollen by recent rains. My genial and accommodating companion, wishing to initiate me by degrees into the hardships of frontier life, kindly offered to land me on the other side dry shod if I would jump on his back. The invitation was accepted with thanks. Since that time I have often, when passing the place in company with others, used this circumstance to make a pun and create some amusement by stating that I once rode across that slough on a lamb's (Lamm's) back.

We reached Forest City about sundown, somewhat weary after our walk of thirty miles. We expected to return to Mason City in a few days, and concluded to return by water by navigating Lime Creek.

We therefore constructed a raft of black walnut and butternut boards at the saw-mill, and made our return trip on this raft, which contained about three thousand feet of lumber. Mr. Lamm acted as captain, and the writer as second mate.

We loosed our moorings just after dinner and glided smoothly over the placid waters of Lime Creek, until we reached Elk Grove, where we tied up for the night and enjoyed the hospitality of a settler by the name of Stiles.

The next day we reached a point about two miles north of Mason

City, where we shipwrecked our craft on a rock. Being so near the place of our destination, we left the raft for the night and hauled the lumber in by teams the next day. The wild ducks and geese, which at that time were very abundant, surprised at the sight of such strange objects floating down the stream, would arise in their fright and fly rapidly away. On the morning of the second day the first mate accidentally let his pocketbook drop in the stream, observing which the brave captain plunged boldly into the water and rescued the first mate's wealth before it vanished from sight.

In the early settlement of the county all enjoyed equal social rights and privileges. There was no aristocracy in those days, and fashions had not found the way to these western wilds. To convey some idea of the simple manner in which life was enjoyed, it may be well to state that we were so fortunate as to find accommodations with a company of seven persons, who slept in a small building on a pile of shavings, and there, seven in a row, with shavings for our bed and pillows, we enjoyed peaceful and refreshing sleep. A steam saw-mill had been built at an early period in the history of the settlement, and it was of great benefit to the community in furnishing boards and lumber for houses, and also enabled them to make rough tables, benches, bedsteads, etc. It was our privilege to commence housekeeping with furniture made by our own hands.

The Winnebago Indians were quite numerous when the first white settlers came to the county. The Sioux Indians came in occasionally. There was a deadly enmity existing between these tribes, and when they met, as they would occasionally, there was music in the air, and a sanguinary conflict would follow.

The Indians were in the county more or less until the year 1862, when they were driven away by the United States Government on account of their taking part in the bloody massacre at New Ulm and Mankato, Minnesota, and at Spirit Lake, Iowa. At this time there was a great excitement throughout this part of the country. Many people fled to the older and more settled portions of the state. The first news of the massacre reached the settlement by refugees from Minnesota who arrived at Forest City about 2 o'clock at night, and gave the alarm. The people being aroused from their slumber at dead of night, and being told of the massacre and that the Indians were upon them, were intensely excited and some fled. Those remaining at once organized for protection and sent out scouts to watch for the Indians. The scouts returned and reported that the Indians had been driven back and the excitement soon passed over.

The Indians were quite adept in playing games with cards, and were ready to play with the whites for whiskey or money. During the games



HOUG BROTHERS' GARAGE, THOMPSON



there were always some innocent appearing Indians about, not indicating that they were paying any attention to the game, but who in fact would see what cards the white man held, and by secret signs would communicate that knowledge to their red brothers, who took part in the game. If the whites were not posted in Indian tricks, they were quite sure to be euchered.

The first white settlement was made in the county in 1854 and 1855. Philip Tennis, George Thomas, John Maben and Thomas Bearse were the first to settle in the county. Others soon followed. Philip Tennis was killed by the Indians in 1863 on the Sioux River, where he had gone for the purpose of trapping for fur.

Mr. Bearse removed from the county many years ago. Many amusing incidents are told of him, only one of which we will relate. It was during the time of the war of the Rebellion, that he came to town one morning, somewhat excited, and stated that we would soon hear of one of the greatest battles of the war, for he had that morning seen the smoke of battle in the south. The person with whom he was speaking laughed at him and told him he could not see the smoke of battle that far, when he promptly replied, "I did see the smoke, and furthermore, I smelt powder."

In 1857 a postoffice was established at Forest City, with Robert Clark, postmaster, and in 1858 a mail route was secured from Clear Lake to Algona, by way of Forest City, with Joseph Hewitt, mail carrier. Previous to this the settlers were required to go to Mason City for their mail and indeed the first settlers received their mail at Cedar Falls. At this time there was no flouring mill nearer than fifty miles, and the earliest settlers were obliged to go to Cedar Falls, a distance of one hundred miles, for flour. Previous to 1860 the nearest market for grain and pork was McGregor and Dubuque, and with wheat at forty cents a bushel, and dressed pork at two cents a pound, a load would not pay the expenses of a trip to market. As railroads pushed westward the distance to market became gradually shortened. Many strange experiences were had by the early settlers in getting to and from market. On December 2, 1856, one Alexander Long, in attempting to reach a neighboring settlement, was caught in a snow blizzard and frozen to death. His body was not found for several weeks. These trips were frequently made with ox teams, as but few were able to afford horses. My first team was a yoke of oxen. We once drove an ox team to Independence to market, a distance of 130 miles, or 260 miles for the round trip.

Some amusing things have occurred in the history of the county. The standard of religion and morality was not of the highest type, and the early preachers were not always received with that respect usually

accorded to those in clerical robes. The first preacher that filled stated appointments was an itinerant Methodist minister, by the name of Hankins, who traveled a circuit of some fifty or sixty miles, and who had to all appearances been a rough character before he experienced religion. He traveled his circuit with an old horse and buggy. While preaching at Forest City he had offended some of the worldly minded people and, in order to retaliate, some wicked son of Belial suggested the idea of taking the burs off his buggy. The suggestion met with favor and the burs were removed from the axles of the buggy. He hitched up his horse to make the next appointment without discovering what had been done, and started off at his usual gait, but had not proceeded far before a wheel ran off and let him down. He returned with the old Adam fully aroused and would have administered severe physical punishment had he discovered the guilty party.

Soon after this a preacher was holding services in Forest City one night, when some wicked boys took a donkey and placed him in the entrance of the building where he was preaching, and by torturing the poor brute induced the donkey to sing one of his songs. The preacher hearing the music, and taking in the situation at once, remarked, "I have heard of the devil going about like a roaring lion, but tonight he has come in the form of a braying ass."

In 1862, a man, by name Serogin, was traveling through the county on foot, and becoming footsore and weary took a horse, without leave, owned by Samuel Tennis, that was running at large on the prairie near Forest City. He rode him several miles and then let him loose, supposing he would return home. The horse was missed the next day, and John S. Blowers, in company with another settler, started in pursuit. Mr. Blowers was sure seen when after a horse thief and soon struck the trail, which he followed until he captured his man. Mr. Blowers had an old revolver of the style called the pepper-box, which he was careful to load before starting. When following up the trail they came upon a skunk, which he endeavored to shoot with his pepper-box, but found that he could not discharge either barrel, and like a "dead Injine" his revolver was no go. The thief was overtaken in the northern part of Wright County and Blowers leveled his revolver on him and commanded him to surrender. Being confronted with so deadly a weapon, and thinking discretion the better part of valor, he gave himself up and returned to Forest City. District Court had been in session in Forest City, but had just adjourned. Court was held in the county only once a year. The following week court was held at Mason City and the prisoner was taken there in order to have trial in that county, at that term of court, if possible. In order to give the court jurisdiction it was necessary to show that the horse had been

taken by Serogin into or across the county. The facts are that he did not take the horse within several miles of Cerro Gordo County, but the prisoner did not relish the thought of remaining in the county jail a year, and wishing to have a speedy trial, he told the judge that he passed through that county. This seemed to give the court jurisdiction, and he was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to the penitentiary at Fort Madison for a short term. The following amusing circumstances in relation to this case is given on the authority of Old Timber Wood, who at that time practiced in the courts of the district and was the prisoner's attorney. The officer who had taken the prisoner to Mason City was anxious to take him to the penitentiary, and was permitted to do so. It was before the time of railroads, and took several days to make the trip. The officer started with the committment, prisoner and shackles. At night they slept together, and in order to prevent escape, the prisoner was shackled to the officer. Before reaching Fort Madison, the prisoner somehow managed to get possession of the committment, and when they arrived at the penitentiary he promptly handed it to the warden and represented himself as the sheriff. Appearances were somewhat in his favor, and the sheriff was promptly locked up and the prisoner walked leisurely away. The sheriff was obliged to send for friends to identify him in order to get released.

In the early settlement of the county game of all kinds was very abundant, and while the writer was never much of a hunter he feels inclined to relate a chicken story.

In the fall of 1862 there was a crop of buckwheat on Block 95 in the south part of Forest City. The prairie chickens soon found it and were destroying the crop very rapidly. The writer, thinking the chicken crop was about ready to harvest, left his place of business one afternoon, after school was dismissed for the day, and went to the buckwheat patch with a double-barreled shotgun, for an hour's sport, and reached the place just as the chickens were flying in for their supper. He at once opened fire, but getting somewhat excited, unfortunately put shot and wads in both barrels of the gun before charging it with powder. This caused no little trouble and delay, and he could only spend time to draw off one barrel and thereafter used only one barrel in shooting. Notwithstanding the misfortune with the horn in charging with shot before he did with powder—nineteen nice prairie chickens were slaughtered and bagged before sundown.

Not far from this time, wishing to have some fun at duck shooting, a trip down Lime Creek was made one afternoon, and thirty ducks killed and brought back as trophies.

The following snake story is given on authority of Amos Chilson.

Several years ago, within the limits of Forest City, and near the north part of town, on a pleasant spring morning, Mr. Chilson saw several snakes crawling about and on looking around he found the place, or den, from which they came, and opened battle on them. He killed those in sight and then commenced digging at the mouth of the den—slaying the snakes as he dug. The winter frost had not been thawed out of the ground and he soon found his digging intercepted by the frost. He therefore abandoned his digging, but on counting his prey he found that he had killed seventy-three good sized snakes. In relating the story he remarked that he “would have done much better if the frost had been out of the ground and it had been a good day for snakes.”

Previous to the year 1865 there was but little attention paid to farming, owing principally to the distance from market and the great expense in transporting the products of the farm to the markets of the world. The population of the county in 1865 was only 298. In 1869 the population had increased to 1072; in 1870 it was 1572 and in 1880 about 5000. From the settlement of the county the year 1865 a majority of the settlers expected to make their living by holding township and county offices, or by hunting, trapping or trading with the neighbors. Money was scarce and they used in its stead county, bridge, school house and road orders. Many county and township jobs were let at fabulous prices. The result was that these orders were sold as low as forty cents on the dollar. The low price of the scrip was overcome, however, by a liberal allowance for the services performed. All persons elected to office were expected to appreciate the honor conferred on them by treating liberally over their election. It would not do to neglect this important requirement and if one went home without meeting this popular demand, he was liable to be waited upon by a committee who would inform him that his presence was desired, and that he was expected to provide such refreshments as their several appetites craved.

As railroads approached nearer, the inhabitants began to pay attention to agricultural industry. New settlers came in and the virgin soil, that had remained in the state of nature for ages, was brought under cultivation and produced bountiful crops.

With industry came habits of temperance and morality. Churches and school houses were erected, and social rights and religious privileges equal to those of counties in the older East were established.

#### PIONEER ADVENTURES

The following items are quoted from the Winnebago Summit of December 21, 1882:

“We received a very pleasant call this morning from Mr. Thomas

Bearse, who was the first actual white settler of this county. Philip, son of Samuel Tennis, came here in 1854 to hunt and trap, and he induced Mr. Bearse, who was then living at Rhode's Mill, to come up with his family and locate in Winnebago County. Mr. Bearse came in the spring of 1855, and built a log house on the east side of Lime Creek, in the edge of the timber, nearly on a line directly east of Forest City depot.

"In May of the same year Mr. Bearse had an encounter with a bear, near Bear Creek. He went out at this time, taking along his rifle, and saw a bear. The bear was not near enough to shoot at, and was finally lost to sight. In returning home Mr. Bearse saw two bears that were coming toward him. He got behind a large poplar tree, and waited until one of them came near enough to shoot at, when he discharged his rifle, sending a ball through the animal. The bear continued to advance, and gathered up a handful of leaves to staunch the wound in his side, the same as a person would do under similar circumstances. When the bear reached the tree, behind which Mr. Bearse stood, he climbed up it a short distance, but weak from the loss of blood, fell back on the ground. Mr. Bearse drew his knife, and as he was engaged in cutting the throat of the wounded bear, its mate came up behind him, and putting his paws around him, began hugging him in good old fashioned bear style. In the struggle which took place the bear struck the knife out of Mr. Bearse's hand, which left him to contend with bruin single handed. He finally found a piece of burned limb, and struck the bear across the face with it, knocking him down, and then the bear ran off. Mr. Bearse was quite severely scratched in the struggle with the bear, but not seriously hurt.

"Mr. Bearse continued to reside in the county about twelve years, when he removed, but later returned to make his home in Norway Township.

"Among other things he talked of were the Indians, who used to roam over this section. The Winnebagoes had their agency about forty miles north of here, up in Minnesota, and used to frequent this section to hunt. The Sioux who were located still farther north, and the Winnebagoes were deadly enemies, and when the latter came here to hunt, the former used to follow them and try to kill them. On one occasion ten Sioux Indians came to Mr. Bearse's house, but went away without doing any harm. On this same occasion this same crowd killed a Winnebago at Clear Lake, shooting him off a horse, and then cutting his head off and carrying it away to be scalped. At one time while Mr. Bearse was living at Forest City, Eagle Eye, a Sioux chief, who was pursued by his enemies, the Winnebagoes, took refuge in his house and was protected by him and the pursuers driven away.

"Those were the days when deer were plentiful in this section, and Mr. Bearse says that he and Mr. Tennis have had as many as 300 at one time hanging up in the woods. These animals were killed for their skins and their careases were left for other wild animals to feed upon."

#### MORE OF INDIANS

When the first settlers landed in Winnebago County, and for several years afterwards, there were several bands of Indians, Winnebagoes, who made this their home. Their number varied—at times there were fully one hundred, again but a handful. During the summer they would bury their pots and kettles in the ground, and leaving their teepees standing, would go forth into Minnesota to hunt and trap, returning in the fall, laden with the spoils of the chase. For the most part they were harmless and seldom attempted violence. They were, however, meddlesome and inclined to thievery, and often caused the settlers much annoyance. But when such was the case, three cool, brave men could go into a camp where fifty Indians were collected, and invariably get back the stolen articles.

At one time Robert Stephens and family left their home to visit John S. Blowers, about a mile distant. In the middle of the afternoon Mr. Stephens returned home alone, and on reaching his house found the door broken open, and on examination discovered that a number of trinkets and provisions had been stolen. He at once returned to Mr. Blowers' and related what had happened. They decided that the depredation had been committed by the Indians. Accordingly, Frank Byford, Blowers, Stephens and John Furney started for the Indian camp to reclaim the stolen articles. They went to Porter, the head chief, and demanded that the loss be made good. After a brief consultation among the Indians the blame of the theft was laid to Black Pigeon who offered to give a blanket and new gun to settle the difficulty. This offer was accepted by the whites, who then demanded some traps that had been stolen some days previous. These were also returned. As the whites were about leaving the tepee, an Indian by the name of Toshanigan attempted to push by them through the entrance. He had a gun partly concealed beneath his blanket, and his looks betokened mischief. Porter, the chief, suddenly said, in a tone of warning, "Be careful, Toshanigan is angry." The situation was at once taken in by the whites, and Stephens, wheeling upon the Indian, grasped the muzzle of the gun and shoving him back into the tepee said, "By G-d! if you don't put up that gun and sit down, I'll cut a hickory and give you the worst hickorying you ever got." Toshanigan sat down, and the whites went away unmolested. The Indians were by no means desirous of

having a war with the whites, and the settler who preserved a calm, determined bearing among them was never harmed.

Philip Tennis was sitting before his fire one wintry night partly undressed, when suddenly the door was burst open and in dashed a half dozen Indians. They were intoxicated, and at once made for Mr. Tennis, showing signs of hostility. He promptly met them, knocked one over into the fire, then leaped through the door out into the night. The Indians searched for him in vain; and they soon left, venting their disappointment in howls and whoops of rage.

They were very fond of liquor, and would use any means to get a pint of whiskey. One by the name of Dick Sharo came to John Blowers' mill one time, and offered to give him a bear skin for a pint of whiskey. Mr. Blowers said that he did not have any whiskey. But the Indian insisted and finally Blowers said, "Where is your bear skin?" The Indian replied, making a motion with his hands and feet as though the bear was still running, "Ugh! me kill um—me kill um, morrow."

#### RECOLLECTIONS OF J. F. THOMPSON

In a letter to the Winnebago Republican, March 12, 1917, Mr. J. F. Thompson, who came to Forest City in 1872, wrote: "Your information of the burning down of the Barton store building and the Masonic Hall (March, 1917), along with the other two buildings on the north, pains me much, for with the going of the Barton store and the Masonic Hall, many fond remembrances of happy days and events had by me many years ago, go with it. This building had just been completed when I landed in Forest City in July 1872, and was the only brick building then in the city except the residence of Judge Clark, my father-in-law, which stood where the Hotel Summit now stands or rather where the remains of that once magnificent hotel stands. The brick schoolhouse located on the stand-pipe hill had burned down the winter before, and in the spring of 1873 I was employed by the school board to teach the Forest City public school in the basement of the old Barton building just burned and you can well understand, therefore, why I am pained to hear of its destruction by fire.

In its basement I organized the Forest City public school and had as my pupils many of the old time boys and girls, some of whom still remain, but most of whom have gone—either to their home above, or moved away. I can recall the names of but very few of my pupils, in that old damp, dark basement school room. In fact, no names now come to my mind of those still living there, except Mr. Ed. Pinekney, who with his brother Edwin and sister Mary, attended, as I now recall it to mind. But those were happy days to me, and I am sorry that the old building is no more.

I took active part for many years in the Masonic order, whose home was in the hall above the store, and I had the honor of being Master of the Lodge.

The summer of 1873, the school board had erected the old brick school house on the site where the former High school building now stands, and in the fall or winter we occupied it. I was the first Superintendent (or Principal, we called the office then) of the High School in that new school house, which was torn down when the frame building now there, was erected.

I organized the school that fall with three departments; primary, intermediate and high school. I cannot call to mind my two assistant teachers. I was offered the principalship of the school for the next year and urged to take it, but declined, as I wished to go to the state university at Iowa City to finish my course and also the law course in that institution, which I did and graduated from the university in the Class of 1874.

Besides the Barton building there were three other stores. My brother, J. Thompson, had a store where Mr. Pinckney's drug store now is; Mr. Pinckney's father conducted a drug store where Mrs. Babbit's store stands. J. W. Mahoney had a store and the post office in the Hewett store building, where the north part of the First National Bank building now is, and there was a store building at or near the Secor Block. That was the town at that time, except Mr. Blennerhasset had a drug store where your fine new office now is.

There were no churches in the town, no school house, no lumber yards, no railroads, and in fact, nothing but the stores above mentioned, and a small frame building where Clark's Jewelry store now is, and where E. L. Stillman at that time conducted a small hardware store. I have seen Forest City grow from almost nothing to the fine small city it is now, with its paved streets, its fine school buildings, and churches, Waldorf College, magnificent stores, banks and dwellings. You can therefore imagine why I feel sorrowful to learn of the Barton building and the Masonic Hall going up in flames. It is quite the last one of the old landmarks of Forest City and soon too, the last of we old builders will pass away, there being now left of us, only Messrs. B. A. Plummer, Eugene Secor, W. O. Hanson, Brother Jasper and myself. We old timers did the best we could, however, to lay the foundation for the fine little city. More than thirty years ago we fought the saloon out of the town and you can now feel proud, you younger generations, to know you walk on sidewalks not built—not one foot of them—by the saloon tax or license money. No child born or reared in Forest City now thirty years old or under, has ever seen a saloon in our beautiful little city.

All can well feel proud of its fine college, churches, school buildings and other public and private buildings. I have been in every county of our grand old state of Iowa, having lived therein now a few months less than 60 years and I have traveled over quite a good deal of the United States, Canada and Old Mexico, and I want to say, and I say it advisedly and truthfully, there is no town of its size that I have ever seen that excels the beauty of location, environment, organization and lay out of buildings and parks of Forest City.

And the civic center of our school houses and college in a few years will be the pride of all, and the wonder of those who visit our town, and you can well be proud of the fact, that with myself and a few others like Senator Boe, you thought out the idea and fought the apparition until it became an actual fact, and your work in connection therewith was most commendable and worthy of this recognition.

# PART THREE

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## HANCOCK COUNTY

### CHAPTER I

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT OF HANCOCK COUNTY

THE COMING OF THE PIONEER—HANCOCK COUNTY PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT—  
THE FIRST SETTLEMENT—LATER SETTLEMENTS—FIRST VITAL STATISTICS—  
ESCAPE FROM GRASSHOPPERS—FIRST TAX PAYERS—A SUMMARY—CENSUS  
STATISTICS, INCLUDING POPULATION, AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING  
IN DIFFERENT YEARS.

##### THE COMING OF THE PIONEER

Most of the pioneers who resolutely sought their fortunes on the frontier prairie have passed on, but their story remains of unmarred interest. Many of Hancock County's most staunch and prominent families today are direct descendants of these men and point with pride to the accomplishments of these forbears. The pioneer's motive in coming to this country while it was young was purely an economic one; it was when he felt that the growing communities of the East were pinching him, that the call of the frontier was heeded. His subsequent advent into the unbroken West was, in nearly every case, not the romantic picture which literature and song has portrayed, but a prosaic, courageous and determined attack, with the axe and rifle as the principal weapons, also the reliable plow. They came to "open up" the country in every sense of the word, which meant clearing forests, breaking wild prairie land, building roads, planting crops, erecting homes, churches and schools, and at the same time make a living for all.

Notwithstanding the many disadvantages and hardships attendant upon the first steps of pioneering, there were many things which alleviated them. The intense blizzards of the winter were offset by the beautiful summers, when the broad prairies were a sea of waving grass and pink flowers, when the curlews, plover and blackbirds were thick. True it is that a large part of Hancock County was then a slough,



L. B. BAILEY



JOHN MAHEN



JOHN A. BAILEY



EDWIN C. PACKARD

HANCOCK COUNTY PIONEERS



but the higher ground afforded ample space for the settlers' cabins and the planting of his crops. For splendor the prairie supplied a moving scene unequaled. The sense of the dramatic was given by the fires which each year swept the prairies, the appearance of which was described by an eastern journalist of the time as follows: "Whilst enjoying the sublimity of the scene, night threw her mantle o'er the earth, and the sentinel stars set their watch in the skies, when suddenly the scene was lighted by a blaze of light, illuminating every object around. It was the prairie on fire. Language cannot convey, words cannot express to you, the faintest idea of the grandeur and splendor of that mighty conflagration. Methought the pale Queen of Night disclaiming to take her place in the heavens, had dispatched ten thousand messengers to light their torches at the setting sun, and now that they were speeding on the wings of the wind to their appointed stations. As I gazed on that mighty conflagration, my thoughts recurred to you, immured in the walls of the city, and I exclaimed in the fulness of my heart:

" 'O fly to the prairie in wonder and gaze  
As o'er the grass sweeps the magnificent blaze;  
The world cannot boast so romantic a sight,  
A continent flaming, 'mid oceans of light.' "

The first duty of the settler was to select and mark the boundaries of his claim. In choosing a location, soil, timber and natural advantages were the first considerations. If a tract of land with a good spring upon it could be found, it saved the time and labor of digging a well. Without chain or compass, the pioneer measured his lines by counting his steps, guiding his course by the sun. So many steps upon each boundary meant three hundred and twenty acres, more or less, and when he went along he blazed the trees with his axe or carved his initials in the bark with his jack-knife. Where trees were absent he drove stakes bearing his initials and sometimes the date when the claim was made. Such lines were often far from correct, but they answered the purpose, for the settlers understood that when the lands were surveyed all inequalities would be righted. If a claimant lost some of his land on one side by the running of section lines, he was almost certain to acquire an equal area somewhere else along his boundaries.

After the claim was selected, the next thing was to provide shelter for himself and family. Until this was done, they lived in an improvised camp and slept in the covered wagon, perhaps the only home they had known during their journey from the old home to the western frontier.

Many of the early settlers brought with them small stores of flour, bacon, salt, sugar and such other things necessary, but however frugal the family was these supplies were soon exhausted. The first year's farming was mainly the cultivation of a truck patch, where a few bushels of corn, potatoes, turnips and other vegetables were raised and stored for winter use. Often the first crop proved insufficient for the family until another could be raised. Game was plentiful and the rifle was the means of supplying fresh meat for the table.

#### THE COUNTY PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT

Prior to 1853 the territory now comprising the county of Hancock was a vast expanse of prairie, dotted with sloughs and marsh ground, with a small amount of timber up the banks of the streams, and uninhabited by any human person except roving bands of Indians. This county, lying as it does at the headwaters of the Iowa, Boone and Des Moines Rivers, and traversed by many creeks, had no doubt been visited by white men, for these fertile grounds had long been the haunts of trappers and hunters prior to the coming of the home-seeker. Hancock County, at this time, was a part of the neutral ground that the government had placed between the Sioux on the north and the Winnebagoes on the south. This strip of "no man's land" was about fifty miles in width. Here the Indians could hunt and fish to their hearts' content, but could not locate there, make homes or indulge in any warfare.

#### THE FIRST SETTLEMENT

The first settlement in Hancock County was made by Mr. and Mrs. Anson Avery on the 9th of September, 1854. They located at Upper Grove, on the east fork of the Iowa River, in the southern and east part of the county. The previous winter C. D. Philo and George Nelson had come up in this direction on a hunting and trapping expedition and had encamped at this place all winter, while they sought the wild game. The great beauty of the surroundings and the fertility of the soil impressed them and Nelson determined to return with a view of making a permanent location. However, Mr. Avery accomplished this object first. Anson Avery was a native of New York state, born October 2, 1823. When thirteen years of age he went to Cass County, Michigan, and in the fall of 1854 came to what is now Avery Township, Hancock County, Iowa, settling on Section 29. He also entered 80 acres of land on Section 28. He hauled his household goods and supplies to this country with six yoke

of oxen. He cut sufficient grass with a common hand scythe to build a hay shed, after which he cut enough logs to build a small house, sixteen by eighteen feet in size, in which to winter. He covered it with clapboards and split some basswood logs to make a puncheon floor, the door and window easings also being made of puncheon. Mr. Avery was married September 9, 1847 to Lovina Philo, who was born on Kelly's Island, Lake Erie, January 22, 1831. Mrs. Avery now resides at Garner, Iowa, approaching her ninetieth year. Anson Avery died November 22, 1903, his demise occurring upon the same farm which he had broken with an ox-team a half century before.

In October, 1854, George Nelson, with his family, came to Upper Grove, and settled in the neighborhood of Mr. Avery. These two families—Avery and Nelson—spent the winter of 1854-5 alone in the county, but with the coming of the spring weather others came in. Among those who located in the southeast part of the county, at Upper Grove, were Malcolm Magill, Thomas Magill, Sr., Orick and Reuben Church and Benoni Haskins. Charles Church and William Gilpin were also in the party. Thomas Magill, Sr., a Seotehman, veteran of the Mexican War, located upon a part of Section 24, raised a cabin, planted a crop, and there stayed until his death in the autumn of 1883. Malcolm Magill also remained upon the portion of Section 24 where he first settled, until his death. Orick Church settled upon Section 33. Reuben Church, a nephew of the above, located nearby.

The next settlement in the county was made at Ellington on Lime Creek. On September 27, 1855, John Maben and Jacob Ward came into the county in search of a home and located at the above named spot. Ward was killed in the cyclone of June, 1883. In December of the same year Barnard and Andrew Bolsinger appeared and settled in Ellington Township. The former afterward moved to Oregon. In the same month Joseph and Lewis Barth located in the same vicinity and made claims to the land. Lewis Barth later moved to Sioux County, Iowa. Jacob and Harrison Rice settled upon Section 8, in what is now Ellington Township, in the fall of 1855. These men did not long remain residents, but sold out their claims to John Maben and moved to the southward. Philip Tennis, in the latter part of 1855, located upon the northeast quarter of Section 7, Ellington Township, and remained a short time. A man named Pease, also located on Section 23 of the same township, for a short time. Thomas Bearse, a trapper and hunter, built a cabin in what is now Madison Township late in the fall of '55. He afterwards moved to Winnebago County.

Among the other settlers of 1856 and 1857 were: Francis and Richard Colburn, C. R. and Silas J. Wright, H. A. Stiles, Charles Gillespie, M. P. Rosecrans, Thomas Wheclock, David Hunt, Robert Irwin,

George Louppe, C. D. Pritchard, Charles Church and his sons C. M. and Cyrus. All of these men are noted in the chapter on township history.

This practically completed the settlement of the county of Hancock until the year 1865, after the close of the Civil War, when Edwin Trumbull and Myron Booth came to Crystal Lake. Another reason which may be cited as preventing the tide of emigration from coming this way was the land speculator, the bane of the frontier settlements. Much of the land in the territory now comprised in Hancock County was bought up by eastern land speculators, who refused to sell to the settlers except on terms which they were unable to meet. The settlers as a class were poor and necessarily were compelled to live economically; they came to the western country where land could be had by claim and ownership obtained by their own work; they were in no position to pay high prices, especially for unimproved ground. The presence of marsh ground may have exerted a harmful influence upon emigration to this particular county; land drainage was then a subject of little comprehension.

#### FIRST VITAL STATISTICS

The first child born in Hancock County was George Avery, son of Anson and Lovina Avery, in January, 1855.

The first death was that of George W. Haskins, who died June 2, 1855, and was buried at Upper Grove.

The marriage of Allen Yonker and Jane Haskins in 1856 was the first in the county. The couple went to Mason City to have the ceremony performed. The marriage was an ill-starred one, for the husband afterward proved to be worthless and finally landed behind prison bars.

The first postoffice in the county was established at Upper Grove in 1857 and Benoni Haskins was appointed postmaster.

#### ESCAPE FROM GRASSHOPPERS

In the early '70s northwestern Iowa was visited in recurring years by hordes of grasshoppers. The billions of insects descended upon the growing fields of grain and stripped them of every vestige of plant life, causing immense loss to the farmers and many hardships due to the loss of the crops. Hancock County fortunately was just out of the territory devastated by the 'hoppers. The Garner Signal published an item at the time as follows: "At the time of the great grasshopper visitation the pests, on their eastward march of devastation, stopped

with the western line of Hancock County and we shall never forget the remark of a pious old New Englander who owned a large tract of land in the marshy part of the county. He had been out to see his possession and could hardly find dry ground enough on his broad acres to stand upon to view the expanse of water and wild rushes that spread out in every direction. He viewed the situation gloomily for a few moments and then remarked, 'I have always held that the Almighty God never made anything in vain. When I first saw my land my faith was shaken, but my confidence vindicates my judgment. This strip of marsh and bog was interposed to stop the d—d grasshoppers.' "

Another humorous story of early settlement is copied from the files of the Britt Tribune as follows: "Frank McGruder protests that he came here in 1869 looking for a place for a mill, but he didn't see any damsite and ate his dinner on the gopher knoll where C. C. Way's hen turkey set the fall of the centennial. E. B. Wheeler wasn't here in the early days, but remembers he welded a brass focus onto the foresight of the man who first came west and discovered Britt. E. B. was at Clear Lake at the time, working for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company. He describes the man as a tall complected, fair set man, with one broken suspender and a wild hair in his eye."

#### FIRST TAX PAYERS

From the original tax records at the county court house the following names of the first tax payers are taken. In 1859 are found the names of M. P. Rosecrans, Edward Holway, Anson Avery, George Louppe, Benoni Haskins, Malcolm Magill, Thomas Magill, Charles Church, Orieck Church, Reuben Church, Henry Overacker, Andrew Hunt, David F. Hunt, Robert Irwin, William C. Gilpin, Abner Cox, Perry Parker, Cornelius Cowen, Freeman Hitchcock, Cephas Church, John Bernard, Abraham Williams, F. M. Rother, Thomas Wheelock, H. Counsel, Jessie Haskins, Abner Stamp; in 1860 were added C. D. Pritchard, George Savogue, Edgar Thorp, Samuel Gilpin and Stephen Gilpin; in 1861 were added H. N. Brockway, Andrew Butterfield, C. W. Buffin, B. W. Culver, William Forbes, and A. Troy; in 1862 appear the new names of John Christie, N. S. Turner, G. R. Maben, John G. Stoshoff, F. N. Colburn, William Aldrich, Avery Baker, James C. Bonar, B. A. Hill, Harrison Wheelock, J. A. Kern, Richard Colburn, Joseph Barth, C. C. Doolittle, Charles Gillespie, B. and A. Bolsinger, Jacob Ward, H. A. Stiles, Charles Bice, Lewis Barth, G. W. Beadle, James Cron, Wesley Hayes and George Wren.

The above is a representative list of the earliest settlers in what is now Hancock County.

## A SUMMARY

The History of Hancock County, published in 1884, has the following to say in regard to the early settlement of the county: "Years ago the public lands embraced by the present limits of Hancock County were thrown into the market and sold, the purchasers being generally men of extensive means who obtained the lands in large tracts for speculative purposes. Consequently, since the organization of the county, it has had no public lands, if we except the sixteenth sections for school purposes, and the swamp land grant, which the unwise, perhaps, mercenary action of the board of supervisors placed into the hands of the same class of speculators that had acquired the other portion at Decorah and Fort Dodge. This fact had a strong tendency to discourage the settlement of the county, for the land, though rarely held at exorbitant rates, was high enough to place it out of competition with government lands, and when the tide of emigration from the Old World and the Eastern States turned westward, allured by the healthful climate, fertile soil and natural advantages of the far away West, it flowed past and beyond us to the homestead lands of the counties less favored by nature, but more favored by circumstances. Other counties organized long after, soon boasted double the population. Year after year the early settlers watched and waited, hoping almost against hope for something to turn up, to people our prairies and develop their agricultural wealth, but the good times would not come. Fifteen years after the first settlement of the county its population numbered less than five hundred souls. There was not a store within its limits and the nearest market for the surplus produce was thirty-five or forty miles distant, and reached by roads that had never known the advantages to be derived from a bridge fund, or been marred by the spade of the pathmaster. The actual settlers were confined to a strip along timbered borders of Lime Creek in the extreme north, and around the groves on the banks of the Iowa in the extreme south, while between the two solitary settlements stretched teny miles of prairie, without a house, tree, bridge, or scarcely a wagon track. The county seat was alternately at Upper Grove or Ellington, as either section succeeded in obtaining the necessary odd vote and was conveyed back and forth in a wagon, being in reality the half dozen or more volumes known as the county records."

## CENSUS STATISTICS

The following statistics are taken from the Census of Iowa for the year 1915, compiled and published under the direction of the executive council of the state:

The population of Hancock County as shown by this report was



MAIN STREET, GARNER



at that time 13,886, of which number 4,729 was urban and 9,157 rural. There were 24.3 people per square mile in the county.

Amsterdam Township, exclusive of Kanawha, had 325 males and 287 females.

Kanawha town had 284 males and 232 females.

Avery Township, exclusive of Goodell town, had a population of 299 males and 301 females.

Goodell town had 130 males and 111 females.

The Township of Bingham, exclusive of Woden town, had within its borders 282 males and 242 females.

Woden town had 85 males and 78 females.

Boone Township, exclusive of Corwith, had 265 males and 249 females.

Britt Township, exclusive of Britt town, had 258 males and 234 females.

Concord Township, exclusive of Garner, had 278 males and 241 females.

The town of Britt had 756 males and 689 females.

The town of Garner had 590 males and 636 females.

Crystal Lake Township, exclusive of Crystal Lake town, had 272 males and 253 females.

Crystal Lake town had 97 males and 80 females.

Ell Township, exclusive of Klemme, had 316 males and 258 females.

The town of Klemme had 206 males and 198 females.

Ellington Township had 457 males and 390 females.

Erin Township had 274 males and 267 females.

Garfield Township had 348 males and 287 females.

German Township had 282 males and 261 females.

Madison Township had 326 males and 301 females.

Magor Township, exclusive of Corwith had 261 males and 221 females.

Corwith town had 300 males and 257 females.

Orthel Township had 304 males and 256 females.

Twin Lake Township, exclusive of Goodell, had 301 males and 261 females.

This gives a total of 7296 males and 6590 females. There were 3049 males and 2884 females, total 5933, of native parents and native born. There were 3009 males and 2802 females, total 5811, native born of foreign or mixed parentage. There were 1238 males and 904 females, total 2142, foreign born.

In Hancock County there are 658 farmers operating only land owned; 205 farmers operating land owned and leased; 277 farmers operating land leased for cash; 267 farmers operating land leased for

share of crop; 281 farmers operating land leased for cash and share of crop; making a total of 1688 persons operating farms.

There were 1688 farms in the county; 144,915 acres owned by operator; 86,317 acres leased by operator for cash; 111,286 acres leased by operator for share of crop. This represented a total of 342,518 acres, valued at \$35,298,019.00. Improvements were valued at \$4,202,527.00 and farm machinery at \$659,399.00.

In Hancock County, by the 1915 census, there were 102,233 acres of land planted in corn, with a yield of 4,230,220 bushels valued at \$2,250,170.00. There were 2453 acres of wheat, 33,784 bushels valued at \$23,661.00. There were 80,711 acres of oats, 2,821,789 bushels, valued at \$1,136,322.00. There were 2788 acres of barley, 70,826 bushels, valued at \$38,384.00. There were 323 acres of rye, 5852 bushels, value \$3,623; and 80 acres of buckwheat, 1361 bushels, value \$836.00.

In the county there were 5942 acres of clover, 7441 tons, value \$63,393.00; and 19,038 acres of timothy, 23,210 tons, valued at \$196,540.00. There were 117 acres of millet and Hungarian, 158 tons, value \$948.00; also 76 acres of alfalfa, 189 tons, with a value of \$1,773.00.

In 1914 there were grown 1191 acres of potatoes, or 118,845 bushels, valued at \$53,805.00. There were 6 acres of sweet potatoes, 623 bushels, value \$331.00.

In 1914 there were 256,081 fowls in Hancock County and 1,134,570 dozen of eggs were produced, valued at \$207,812. The fowls were valued at \$117,243.00.

In the county in 1914 there were 1469 colts under one year; 1996 horses one year and under two; 10,611 horses two years and over; 407 mules and asses; making a total of all 14,483. There were 13,378 calves under one year; 5093 steers one and under two years; 2746 steers two and under three years. The value of the horses, mules and asses totaled \$1,290,628.00. There were 12,593 milch cows two years and over and 2457 cows not milch, making a total of cattle 42,639 head, valued at \$1,153,935.00. There were 45,096 swine in the county, valued \$397,156.00. There were 1395 sheep, valued at \$9,030.00. There were 5526 pounds of wool produced, worth \$1,066.00. There were 114 goats in Hancock County.

The following table of population is taken from the Iowa State Register:

	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910
Britt .....	639	818	1245	1540	1410	1303
Garner .....	438	679	1118	1288	1200	1028
Corwith .....	334	567	651	523	455	
Klemme .....	...	...	262	292	306	
Woden .....	...	...	...	200	262	
Crystal Lake...	...	...	246	202	143	
Kanawha .....	...	...	...	291	398	
Goodell .....	...	262	254	245	240	

In 1860 the first recognition appears of the population of Hancock County. The United States Census of that year places the number of inhabitants of this county as 179. In 1865 this had increased to 292 and in 1869 to 572. In 1870 Hancock's population numbered 999 and in 1875 reached 1482. By the census of 1880 the number was given as 3453. This population was made up of natives of Germany, Ireland, France, Bohemia and the United States, with a small percentage of Scandinavians, Scotch and English. The American element emigrated mostly from the New England states, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Germans came principally from the northern part of the Teutonic Empire.

Of interest in comparison with present statistics given above the following items compiled in the years 1874 and 1879 will be of interest.

TABLE OF PRODUCTION FOR THE YEAR 1874

Wheat	70,006	bushels
Corn	57,899	bushels
Oats	48,816	bushels
Potatoes	6,801	bushels
Barley	1,564	bushels
Buckwheat	240	bushels

FOR THE YEAR 1879

Corn	255,598	bushels
Wheat	168,782	bushels
Oats	140,371	bushels
Barley	12,513	bushels
Potatoes	26,188	bushels
Buckwheat	945	bushels
Hay	8,782	tons

STOCK FIGURES FOR 1874

Horses in the County	564
Milch Cows in the County	805
Pound of Butter Produced	39,934
Pounds of Cheese Produced	16,390

IN 1879

Horses Owned in the County	1,918
Milch Cows Owned in the County	1,874
Other Cattle Owned in the County	5,732
Swine Owned in the County	5,663
Sheep Owned in the County	268
Mules Owned in the County	55
Pounds of Butter Produced	116,065
Pounds of Cheese Produced	4,750

## CHAPTER II

### ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

ORGANIZATION—PETITION OF ORGANIZATION—THE COUNTY COURT—BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—COUNTY AUDITORS—TREASURER AND RECORDER—COUNTY TREASURERS—COUNTY RECORDERS—COURT CLERKS—COUNTY SHERIFFS—COUNTY SURVEYORS—COUNTY CORONERS—STATE REPRESENTATION—EARLY POLITICS—MARRIAGE RECORD—LAND AND PROPERTY VALUES—REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

#### ORGANIZATION

For many years before anyone thought of the existence of Hancock County all the territory now included in the county constituted a part of the Winnebago Indian reservation, also part of the neutral ground described elsewhere. The settlement of the country, as noted before, first started in 1854, and when enough people had located here to entitle them to official recognition the territory was attached to Webster County for judicial purposes.

During the spring of 1858 there were enough inhabitants in the county to justify an organization for themselves, so application was made to Robert Clark, then the county judge of Winnebago County, for the necessary authority according to the laws of Iowa. The following is a copy of the original document, conferring the right to the citizens of Hancock County to organize themselves into a separate county and elect officers for their government:

“State of Iowa,  
Winnebago County.      } ss.

June 8, 1858.

“Whereas, a petition of the majority of the legal voters of Hancock County has been presented to me, Robert Clark, county judge of Winnebago County, to which said county of Hancock is, by law, attached;

“Now, therefore, I, Robert Clark, county judge of Winnebago County, do hereby order an election, by the legal voters of said Hancock County, to be held on Monday, June 28, 1858, for the purpose of electing the following county officers, to wit: A county judge, a treasurer, a recorder, a clerk of the district court, a sheriff, an assessor, a

coroner, a county superintendent of schools, a drainage commissioner, a county surveyor, and such township officers as are allowed by law. Said election to be held in accordance with the act in relation to new counties, and said election will be held as follows: All the legal voters of said county are, under this order, allowed and permitted to vote for or against the banking laws, and for the county and township officers, and it is further ordered that Congressional Township No. 96, Ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26, also Township 95, Ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26, also Township 94, Ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26 comprise one township to be known as Avery Township, and an election to be held at the house of B. Haskins in said township; and, it is also ordered, that Congressional Township 97, Ranges 23, 24, 25 and 26 shall comprise one township to be known as Madison Township, and an election to be held at the house of J. C. Bonar, in said township, and James C. Bonar, J. Ward and M. Colburn are hereby appointed judges of said election, and this shall be your order and warrant for the same, and you are further to duly canvass such votes as may be cast, and make due return to me at my office, in Forest City, in seven (7) days from said fourth Monday of June, A. D. 1858.

“Given under my hand and seal of said Winnebago County, this the 8th day of June, A. D. 1858.

“(Seal)

RORERT CLARK,

“County Judge of Winnebago County.”

In accordance with the above the first election was held on the 28th of June, 1858. There were but twenty-two votes cast at the polls. The following officers were chosen that day: M. P. Rosecrans, county judge; George Louppe, clerk of the courts; Benoni Haskins, sheriff; Reuben Church, treasurer and recorder; G. R. Maben, superintendent of the common schools; C. R. Wright, surveyor; J. C. Bonar, drainage commissioner. This action brought Hancock County into official recognition in the state. For some years the county had no county seat, but the business was transacted either at Upper Grove, Ellington or wherever the county officials happened to reside. More of the court house history, however, is given in the story of the county seat fight. It is well to say in this connection, though, that on the 4th of November of the year of organization John I. Popejoy and James Goodwin, having been appointed commissioners by the judge of the district court, made the selection for the seat of the county government. This was the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 96, Range 23. The land was donated to the county by Truman Seymour of the state of New York shortly after this location.

## THE COUNTY COURT

As before stated, in the early days Hancock County was joined to Webster County for judicial purposes and later to Winnebago County. At the time of the organization of Hancock the powers of the present board of supervisors were vested in the county court. This county court consisted of a judge, a prosecuting attorney and a sheriff. The judge had the entire jurisdiction in all matters that could not properly be brought before the district court, which arrangement made the county judge a man of almost monarchial powers. The office was the most important one in the hands of the people and, in many places of Iowa where it was used, resulted in graft and manipulations which eventually caused the abolishment of the office.

The records of the county court commence with the organization of the county. The first county court consisted of M. P. Rosecrans, judge; Benoni Haskins, sheriff; and George Louppe, clerk. No business of any importance seems to have been transacted, except the issuing of county warrants, the first being in favor of Charles Church, and was for lumber furnished for the building of a county office, for the sum of \$57.85. The second was to Robert L. Irwin and was for \$119.19 for building the above named office.

No official record exists of any business occupying the attention of the county court until the month of December, 1860, when an effort was made to have the village of Amsterdam made the county seat, and in furtherance of the plan a contract was let by the county judge for the building of a \$2,000 court house at that place. However, a change of administration on January 1st caused the failure of the scheme, the contractors being prevented from continuing by a writ of injunction. During these years the county had consisted of the two original townships of Madison and Avery and no new ones were organized under the county court system. The court met whenever and wherever convenient, as no seat of government had been definitely established.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

During the winter of 1859-60 an act was passed by the General Assembly, which was approved by the governor, changing the mode of local government, and creating the board of supervisors of the county. This board took charge of all the powers formerly vested in the county court, excepting the issuance of marriage licenses, probate matters and civil cases. The county court, in the meantime, continued to hold its sessions until 1869, but nothing of any interest transpired, as the time was all spent in routine matters.

The board of county supervisors at first consisted of one member from each township. The election for members was held at the time of the general election in November, 1860, and the first meeting of the board of supervisors of Hancock County was held at Amsterdam, on the first Monday in January, 1861.

This board consisted of the following gentlemen: G. R. Maben, Madison; and B. W. Culver, Avery. After perfecting the organization of the board by electing Mr. Maben to the chair, they proceeded to the transaction of business. The principal matters dealt with seemed to be the allowing of claims and ordering their payment. The salary of the clerk of the board was set at \$200 per annum, payable quarterly. The board at this session also entered into an agreement with W. P. Hepburn, by which he was to go to Washington, D. C., and attend to the business of the county in relation to the swamp and overflowed lands lying within its borders, according to the Act of Congress, approved September 28, 1850. For these services Mr. Hepburn was to receive \$200 in hand and if he succeeded in obtaining either the land scrip or the warrants he was to receive \$800 more.

The first warrant drawn by order of the board was to Edward Thorp, for cutting for the office of the board clerk, and was for seventy-five cents. It was No. 1 and bore the date of January 7, 1861. At the June session the board ordered the division of Madison and the erection on the part cut off of a new civil township to be known as Ellington Township. At the same time the township of Avery was divided and part of that ordered to organize under the name of Amsterdam. The tax levy of this year was laid as follows: for state tax, one and a half mills; for county tax, six mills; for school purposes, one mill; for bridge fund, one mill.

On October 14, 1861, the board again met. There were present G. R. Maben, B. W. Culver and Charles Church. The latter took the oath of office, claiming that he had a right to take his seat on the board. Jacob Ward also appeared from Ellington, claiming that he had a right to a seat, and was also sworn. B. W. Culver protested against Charles Church and Jacob Ward taking their places on the board, making the point that they had no right to do so until the January following, they having been elected as they were in townships set off previous to election and that he, Culver, was supervisor for Avery Township, as it existed prior to the sub-division, and would remain such until January 1, 1862. To this Messrs. Ward and Church, in turn, protested, giving the following reasons: that said B. W. Culver was not a resident of the present township of Avery; that he refused to take the oath of office, being elected in Amsterdam, then a newly organized township. The clerk was then ordered to prepare

ballots, by which Jacob Ward was to ascertain the length of his term in office. This being done, after an informal ballot, resulted in Mr. Ward drawing the one year term, and B. W. Culver the two year term, and thus matters were amicably arranged and the board was organized as follows: G. R. Maben, Madison; Charles Church, Avery; B. W. Culver, Amsterdam; and Jacob Ward, Ellington. Maben was elected chairman in January, 1862.

At the session of April, 1863, a petition of M. P. Rosecrans and others was presented to the board, asking the board to purchase a tract of land, not to exceed a section of six hundred and forty acres, within a mile of the ten-mile post on the road from Amsterdam to Ellington, and improve the same, by the planting of the same with timber, for the purpose of establishing the county seat of Hancock on the same. "This wild scheme was voted down and rejected by unanimous consent of the board." This year, in addition to the regular taxes, a special war tax of three mills was levied.

In January, 1864, the new board assembled for the transaction of regular business. Charles Gillespie, Ellington; John Maben, Madison; B. W. Culver, Amsterdam; and Orick Church, Avery, composed the board. Culver was elected chairman for the ensuing year. At the April session the following resolution was introduced and passed:

Resolved, that the board of supervisors appropriate the sum of \$200, or such further sum as may be necessary, to purchase and fence a suitable piece of ground for a burying ground; one in each end of the county; and that John Maben and Charles Gillespie be appointed a committee in the north part of the county, and B. W. Culver and Orick Church a committee in the south part of the county, to attend to the matter, and in June, 1864, a proposition having been made to the board that they refund to the citizens of the different townships the amount paid by them as bounty to volunteers, on motion it was

Resolved, that the sum of \$200 be appropriated to each township to refund to those who have paid bounties, or to be used in procuring volunteers. It was also

Resolved, that a sufficient sum be appropriated to purchase twelve Colt's navy revolvers, and that said revolvers, when procured, be distributed three to each of the four townships in the county.

At the September session of the board some \$300 was appropriated to each end of the county, to finish fencing their respective graveyards.

At the meeting of the board of supervisors January 1, 1866, the salaries of the county officers were fixed for the year as follows: county judge, \$100; sheriff, \$120; clerk, \$600; besides the necessary fees accruing to each officer. A proposition was made to the qualified electors, that they allow a special levy of nine mills tax, for the pur-



HANCOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, GARNER



pose of raising the necessary funds to pay off the indebtedness of the county and raise the county warrants to par. At a special election held August 28, 1866, it was carried by a majority of six in a total vote of fifty.

In 1871 the new method of electing supervisors by districts instead of townships came into use and the first board under this system was composed of A. D. Hiams, G. R. Maben, and J. M. Elder. Prior to this the following named gentlemen had served: G. R. Maben, B. W. Culver, Charles Church, Jacob Ward, Charles Gillespie, John Maben, Orick Church, Charles Robins, Parley Colburn, John Christie, George R. Knapp, John H. Beadle, A. D. Hiams II, H. H. Bush and B. F. Scott.

After 1871 the supervisors upon the Hancock County board have been, with the date of their election, as follows: George W. Beadle, 1871; H. H. Bush, 1872; J. H. Melins, 1873; G. R. Maben, 1874; John Burnside, 1875; A. D. Hiams, 1876; John Burnside, 1877; H. H. Bush, 1878; G. Davenport, A. D. White and W. Greenup, 1879; C. C. Way, E. C. Packard, 1880; G. W. Gillett, 1882; Thomas Duff, 1884; A. C. Ripley, C. M. Church, 1885; J. H. Beadle, J. H. Burdick and J. A. Treganza, 1885; Ed Lloyd, 1886; A. C. Ripley, C. M. Church, 1887; Godfrey Carlson, J. A. Treganza, 1888; Ed Lloyd, 1889; Royal Lovell, John Griggs, 1890; Godfrey Carlson, George Fillenwarth, 1891; J. T. Standring, 1892; J. B. Cundiff, F. J. Oxley, Royal Lovell, 1893; Godfrey Carlson, George Fillenwarth, 1894; F. J. Oxley, 1895; E. P. Fox, J. B. Cundiff, 1896; Godfrey Carlson, W. C. Richards, 1897; E. P. Fox, R. M. Day, 1899; H. J. Weiland, William Grieman, Andrew Anderson, 1901; D. L. Richardson, 1903; H. J. Weiland, 1904; C. H. Nelson, A. W. Bingham, W. G. Green, Andrew Anderson, D. L. Richardson, 1906; W. G. Green, John T. Bush, Andrew Anderson, O. A. Phelps, 1898; Fred Stork, Martin Bachman, A. W. Bingham, 1910; Frank Oleson, O. A. Phelps, A. W. Bingham, 1912; F. P. Oleson, Fred Stork, Martin Bachman, A. W. Dana, 1914; H. J. Stille, August Lau, Layman Naser, 1916.

#### COUNTY AUDITORS

John Christie, Jr., was elected the first auditor of Hancock County in October, 1869, and on January 1, 1870, assumed the duties of that office. After serving his term of two years he was seven times re-elected. Christie was a native of Ontario, Canada, his parents having come there from Scotland. He came to Hancock County, June 10, 1861, left for service in the Thirty-Second Iowa Infantry during the war, and then returned here.

Following Mr. Christie in the position of county auditor have been:

J. W. Elder, 1878-80; M. L. Fuller, 1880-2; John Christie, Jr., 1882-90; George P. Hardwick, 1890-5; Herbert V. Reed, 1895-1900; E. F. Brummond, 1900-3; George Asplin, 1903-7; Thomas Duff, 1907-11; W. L. Fitkin, 1911-15; E. P. Hanson, 1915.

#### TREASURER AND RECORDER

At the time of the organization of the county this was one of the offices filled, and Reuben Church was unanimously elected to hold this dual office. He at once assumed the duties thereof and continued to serve until January, 1862. He was succeeded by Jacob Ward, who entered office January 1, 1864. The office was split soon afterwards.

#### COUNTY TREASURERS

In October, 1865, H. N. Brockway was elected county treasurer of Hancock County and was the first to serve in that office after its separation from that of recorder. He went into office January 1, 1866. He was reelected in October, 1867, and served in all three years, resigning the office to accept the position of Judge of the circuit court. John Maben was then elected and served continuously until 1882, when Thomas Hymer was elected to the office. In 1883 John Maben again was chosen by the voters of the county. Maben was a native of New York State and settled in Hancock County in 1855. His first residence in this county was on Sections 12 and 13, Madison Township, later moving to Garner.

From this time until the present the treasurers of Hancock County have been: J. J. Upton, 1887-91; William Shattuck, 1891-5; C. S. Terwilliger, 1895-9; Isaac Sweigard, 1899-1901; H. V. Reed, 1901-3; W. L. Mitchell, 1903-7; A. B. Sawyer, 1907-11; J. O. Lewis, 1911-15; T. H. Thompson, 1915-.

#### COUNTY RECORDERS

After the separation of the offices of treasurer and recorder in the year 1865, A. D. Hiams was chosen for the office of recorder and held it for two years. Lambert B. Bailey assumed the duties of the office January 1, 1867, and served two years, turning over the place to John Maben on January 1, 1869. Maben served two years, when he retired to accept the office of treasurer, leaving the place of recorder again in the hands of L. B. Bailey. Bailey was a native of Licking County, Ohio, and came to Hancock County in 1864, locating in what was afterward known as Bailey's Grove. Besides being recorder of the county,

Mr. Bailey was at different times clerk of the district court and superintendent of schools. He held the office of recorder until 1887, when E. C. Abbey was installed. From then until the present the recorders have been: John Stoddart, 1891-5; F. W. Lenz, 1895-1901; Ole Peterson, 1901-3; P. L. Brown, 1903-7; E. P. Hanson, 1907-11; Christyna Callison, 1911-15; Jennie Hammill, 1915- .

#### COURT CLERKS

At the first election in Hancock County, June 28, 1858, George Louppe was elected clerk of the courts for this county. He held his office until January, 1861, when he gave place to C. D. Pritchard. Louppe afterwards left the county and moved to Jasper County. Following Pritchard in office came: Charles C. Doolittle, 1863-5; James M. Elder, 1865-9; L. B. Bailey, 1869-71; C. C. Doolittle, 1871-85; C. C. Doolittle, 1885-7; Isaae Sweigard, 1887-91; Wesley Aldridge, 1891-5; J. M. Coutts, 1895-99; L. D. Womeldorf, 1899-1901; F. C. Bush, 1901-7; O. F. Missman, 1907-11; J. W. Knadler, 1911-15; E. L. Stilson, 1915- .

#### COUNTY SHERIFFS

The first sheriff of Hancock County was Benoni Haskins, who was elected in June, 1858, entering upon the duties of the office immediately. He served about eighteen months. He afterwards became a resident of the state of Oregon. At the October election, 1861, C. M. Church was elected sheriff and qualified for the office on the 1st day of January following. B. A. Hill was next elected to the office, but held it only a short time, then resigned and left the county. The sheriffs of the county from then until now, in their order have been: John Maben, 1863-5; A. Yarrington, 1865-9; J. H. Beadle, 1869-73; John Veits, 1873-77; H. M. Bradstreet, 1877-79; W. C. Moak, 1879-87; E. Brummond, 1887-89; C. S. Terwilliger, 1889-93; A. W. Schmalle, 1893-97; J. H. Dickirson, 1897-1901; H. Gartin, 1901-5; T. R. Richm, 1905-7; John Suurballe, 1907-13; A. E. Baumgartner, 1913-17; J. S. Ross, 1917-.

#### COUNTY SURVEYORS

The first county surveyor of this county was Charles R. Wright, who entered into the office July 1, 1858. He held the position until September, 1859, when he died. Bernard Bolsinger, one of the pioneers of Hancock County, was the next surveyor, elected in October, 1869, and reelected in 1871. After his term of office he moved to Oregon, where he later died. James Crow took the office in January,

1864. Following Mr. Crow the following named have held the office of surveyor: Eugene Marshall, 1871-73; W. C. Moak, 1873-79; C. C. Way, 1879-83; J. M. Elder, 1883-87; F. N. Pitkin, 1887-97; J. E. Rathburn, 1897-99; F. N. Pitkin, 1899-1903; J. E. Rathburn, 1903-5; E. W. Burgitt, 1905-9; Charles R. Wood, Jr., 1909—.

#### COUNTY CORONERS

At the time of the first election in 1858 no coroner was elected for some reason, nor was it until October, 1859, that it was thought necessary to elect one. Charles Church was then chosen to fill the position, beginning with the year 1860 and holding it for three years thereafter. Benoni Haskins (1863-5), was the immediate successor of Mr. Church and then came, in order, the following named: S. Whitecombe, 1865-72; Dr. J. Muncey, 1872-3; J. H. Beadle, 1873-4, to fill a vacancy; R. W. Noble, 1874-6; Z. C. Green, 1876-80; Hartley Hasket, 1880-2; H. W. Smith, failed to qualify in 1882, but did in 1885; E. N. Bailey, 1886-8; J. A. Treganza, 1888-9; J. W. Knadler, 1889-90; E. N. Bailey, 1890-4; A. J. Cole, 1894-6; W. S. Groom, 1896-8; E. N. Bailey, 1898-1900; A. J. Cole, 1900-4; A. R. Carton, 1904-7; L. M. Small, 1907-9; H. A. Richter, 1909-13; W. R. Keeney, 1913-17; W. F. Missman, 1917- .

#### STATE REPRESENTATION

At the time of its organization Hancock County became a part of the Second Congressional District, which then embraced about half of the state and was represented in the Congressional halls by William Vandever of Dubuque. By the census of 1860 Iowa was entitled to six representatives in Congress and Hancock County, on the redistricting of the state in 1862, became a part of the Sixth District. In 1870 the state was again redistricted and this county became a part of the Fourth District. Again in 1882 it was made a part of the Tenth District.

The following men have represented Hancock County in the state legislature: N. V. Brower acted as senator in the Twenty-Second, Twenty-Third, Twenty-Fourth and Twenty-Fifth General Assembly; Henry H. Bush was representative in the Sixteenth General Assembly; John Christie, Jr., was a representative in the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly; Albert J. Cole was representative in the Thirty-Fifth; Seth B. Durant was a representative in the Thirty-Sixth; John Hammill was a senator in the Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth General Assemblies; O. K. Maben was a representative in the Thirtieth, Thirty-First, Thirty-Second and the Thirty-Second extra; Charles D. Prit-

chard was representative in the Tenth session; Andrew C. Ripley was the representative in the Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth General Assemblies; Thomas A. Way was representative in the Twenty-Eighth General Assembly; J. E. Wichman, Thirty-Seventh General Assembly.

These men named above are those who lived in Hancock County during their term of service in the state legislature, and the list does not comprise all the men who represented the district of which Hancock County was a part of the various Assemblies. It is intended simply to show the number of Hancock County men who have had the honor of being elected to the legislative halls.

Albert M. Deyoe, for several terms county superintendent of schools, was elected state superintendent of public instruction in the year 1911. He is still serving in this position under appointment.

#### EARLY POLITICS

At the first election in Hancock County in 1858 there was no excitement or contest, as but one person was nominated for each office and he necessarily received all the votes. There were only twenty-two votes cast in all. Another election was held on the 12th of October, 1858, the first having taken place on the 28th of June, and then only the county judge seems to have been voted for. The candidates were M. P. Rosecrans and G. R. Maben, the former receiving eighteen and the latter seventeen votes.

At the fall election of 1859 more interest was evident, as in most cases the office was strongly contested and the successful candidate had not many votes to spare. Charles D. Pritchard and Reuben Church contesting for the office of treasurer and recorder, the former received thirteen and the latter twenty-two votes. Three candidates there were for the office of sheriff, Benoni Haskins, David F. Hunt and Charles M. Hunt, the latter being elected by a plurality of five votes. For superintendent Charles Gillespie defeated James C. Bonar by one vote in a total ballot of thirty-seven. For drainage commissioner and surveyor the vote was just as close, resulting in the election of Richard Colburn and Bernard Bolsinger to those respective offices.

With the campaign of 1860 came many new elements of discord in the political field. Already rampant treason had arisen from the South and slavery became the live issue of the day. The country was deeply moved and the different questions stirred the popular heart as it never had been before. The storm had been gathering in the political sky ever since the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and it had not been calmed when "bleeding Kansas" cried out from

beneath the ruffian's lash and the borderer's knife and pistol. The raid of John Brown, that ended so disastrously for him at Harper's Ferry, roused the evil demon in Southern bosoms, and with both sides excited beyond measure, the country entered into its most memorable campaign. The republican convention met at Chicago for the purpose of placing in the field candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. The names of Seward, Chase, Blair and Bates were handed around, but when the name of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois was produced the cheers and demonstrations of the convention plainly showed him to be the favorite. After three ballots he was declared the unanimous choice of the convention and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine was chosen to be his running mate.

The democratic national convention met at Charleston, S. C., April 23, 1860, but disagreements arising between the sectional parts of that great party, no choice could be effected, and after fifty-seven ineffectual ballots, many southern delegates withdrew and an adjournment was had to Baltimore. Here, upon the 19th of June the convention again met and after a stormy meeting Stephen A. Douglas was nominated for the Presidency and H. V. Johnson for the Vice Presidency.

That portion of the convention that had seceded held a meeting of their own and placed in nomination the then vice president, John C. Breckenridge for President and Joseph Lane, of Oregon, for Vice President. A Union conservative convention also placed in nomination the names of John Bell of Tennessee with Edward Everett of Massachusetts as his running mate.

These four candidates in the field, the exciting question of slavery, together with the threats of secession made by Southern leaders if Lincoln was elected, all combined to make this one of the most exciting forerunners to what followed. Large and enthusiastic meetings were held by all parties in every city and town in the country.

In Hancock County but little of this bitterness was seen in the choice of county officers. Charles D. Pritchard was elected clerk of the courts, beating his rival, A. H. Stiles, by a majority of two. Charles Church also had the same majority over Charles Gillespie for the office of school superintendent. Benoni Haskins was elected drainage commissioner by an unanimous vote of forty-four, the total number of votes cast.

The war was in progress during the political campaign of 1861 and issues growing out of the conduct of the war were the points of dispute. The republicans were the first to hold their convention, meeting at Des Moines in July. They placed in nomination a state ticket and adopted a platform endorsing the action of the government

in trying to coerce the rebellious states, denouncing the doctrine of secession. The democratic party, while also denouncing the secession of the states, condemned the action of the government in trying to maintain the supremacy of the states by arms. The campaign in Hancock County afforded but little interest, the all absorbing topic being the course of the war. Only forty-eight ballots were deposited at the polls. Where any candidate was known to affiliate with any party, it was found, however, that the lines were drawn very closely. M. P. Rosecrans was elected county judge by only two votes over B. F. Denslow. Reuben Church had thirty-eight votes for treasurer and recorder, and James Crow but twenty-three. Although H. N. Brockway polled a large majority of the votes of this county for the office of representative in the legislature, he was not able to overcome the opposition in the other counties composing this district. B. A. Hill was the successful candidate for sheriff and J. M. Elder for superintendent. Four candidates contended for the office of surveyor and Bernard Bolsinger was the fortunate aspirant. Although the office of drainage commissioner was of no account votes were given for all the following gentlemen: J. Ward, B. Haskins, J. M. Elder, Thomas Magill, William C. Gilpin and A. Williams. Jacob Ward was elected.

The reverses met with by the Union Army during the year 1862 had its depressing effect upon the campaign. The democrats met in convention at Des Moines and adopted a platform in which it was declared that they were in favor of using all the constitutional means for the suppression of the Rebellion, but were opposed to any confiscation or emancipation scheme; were opposed to any suspension of the habeas corpus, and declaring the superiority of the white over the black race, and opposed to the purchase of the slaves.

The republicans in their platform adopted at Des Moines simply reiterated their former platform upon the subject of loyalty to the government and a vigorous prosecution of the war. In this county politics do not seem to have entered into the field, but each officer seemed to run upon his own merits and capabilities to fulfill the duties of the office. C. C. Doolittle was elected clerk of the court over C. D. Pritchard and G. R. Maben by a majority of four. John Maben took the office of sheriff by twenty-eight votes out of a total vote of thirty-four. J. M. Elder, a democrat, was elected county superintendent of schools by a majority of fifteen.

In 1863 in Hancock only a fair vote was polled, the general population being too much scattered to get up much enthusiasm. The winning candidates had better majorities than usual. In 1864 Abraham Lincoln was renominated by the republicans with Andrew Johnson of Tennessee associated with him. The democrats put in nomination

Gen. George B. McClellan, and George H. Pendleton. The republicans of the state held a convention at Des Moines July 7th, and adopted a platform endorsing the action of the national convention. The democratic party met also in convention at the same place July 16th, selected a state ticket, but adopted no definite platform. In 1865 the republicans were the first to hold their convention, meeting at Des Moines June 14th, nominating a ticket and adopting a platform. The Union Anti-Negro Suffrage Party met at the capital August 23rd, nominated a ticket and adopted a platform. The democrats also met in convention the same day, but made no nominations, the party supporting the soldiers' ticket. In Hancock County about the only opposition was encountered by C. C. Way, who won the office of school superintendent by a majority of only seven votes.

The campaign of 1866 was fought upon the issue of reconstruction of the South. This was the beginning of what was called the liberal republican movement. In Hancock County politics had little to do with the election as J. M. Elder, a democrat, was elected by a majority of fifty-five to the office of clerk of the courts, and L. B. Bailey, a republican, to the office of recorder.

The general issues dividing the parties in 1867 were about the same as in 1866. In this county the republicans carried the day on state matters, but on the county offices the best men went into office irrespective of party and without opposition.

#### MARRIAGE RECORD

The first marriage license issued in Hancock County bears the date of April 14, 1861, and authorizes Thomas Wheelock to wed Christine Sheaf. This ceremony was performed by M. P. Rosecrans, the county judge.

Among the curious items in regard to marriages in the county is that of the wedding of James Dickinson and Annie Williams, who were "married on a trot," as some of the old settlers described it. The couple drove up to Judge Rosecrans' office, procured the license and then as all were in a hurry, the judge to go to dinner and the couple to return to work at the farm, Rosecrans climbed into the buggy and the ceremony was performed while the outfit traveled down the road. When the judge's home was reached he jumped out and the newly wedded pair proceeded without even slowing up the horse.

The second marriage license was issued on the 15th of April, 1861, to William L. Thatcher and Frances A. Fisk. The county judge also spoke the words which united this couple.



PUBLIC LIBRARY, GARNER



The following is a list of the various licenses issued for the first few years subsequent to the organization of the county:

James Dickinson and Annie Williams, July 17, 1861; ceremony performed by M. P. Rosecrans, county judge.

Charles Buffon and Hannah Catlin, November 6, 1861; ceremony performed by J. M. Elder, justice of the peace.

Bernard Bolsinger and Margaret Gilpin, July 26, 1862; married by the county judge.

Jacob Ward and Catherine Kneadler, November 13, 1862; ceremony by James Crow, justice of the peace.

Joseph F. M. Perttenarte and Martha E. McNutt, July 15, 1863.

Elias Tompkins and Sarah Gilpin, December 14, 1864.

Lewis Colburn and Melissa Ward, on January 30, 1865; ceremony performed by Rev. Richard Burge.

Joseph S. Bamford to Lucy Barker, October 10, 1865.

For the first twenty years of the county's existence the number of marriages per year ran from none in 1868 to thirty-six in 1881.

#### LAND AND PROPERTY VALUES

The value of property open to taxation, that is, all taxable property, including land, town property, personal property and railroad property in 1869 was \$947,687; in 1871, \$957,992; in 1872, \$953,888; in 1873, \$1,192,886; in 1874, \$1,273,517; in 1875, \$1,252,211; in 1876, \$1,391,028; in 1877, \$1,264,534; in 1878, \$1,385,467; in 1880, \$1,286,072; in 1883, \$1,755,033.

Compare the above with the figures for 1916, which represent the total value of taxable property in Hancock County to be \$27,637,364.

#### REGISTRY OF DEEDS

As has been stated, before its organization Hancock County was attached to Webster County. The first transfers of land, therefore, were recorded in the books of that county, and were afterwards transcribed into the Hancock County books.

The first warrantee deed was recorded as being filed January 1, 1857, at 6 o'clock P. M., and conveyed from David F. Hunt to Robert L. Irwin, of the county of Hancock, the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter and the south seven-tenths of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 94, Range 23, the same containing seventeen acres, more or less, according to the government survey. The consideration named therein was \$200, and the instrument acknowledged before L. H. Cutler, notary public, on the 20th day of November, 1856.

After Hancock County was organized books were procured and the records kept at the house of the first recorder, Reuben Church. The first deed entered by him upon the new records was executed by Luke Nichols and his wife, Maria Nichols, to P. E. Goodale, on the 25th of October, 1860. In consideration of \$1500 it conveyed to the latter party the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 97, Range 26, and the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 96, Range 26. It was acknowledged before J. L. Brown, justice of the peace.

The first mortgage bears the date of April 29, 1859, and was filed for record June 1st of that year. It appears to have been given by William C. Gilpin to George Knowles of Osage, to secure the payment of the sum of \$235 one year after date. The land covered by it was the northeast quarter of Section 25, Township 94 North, Range 24 West, in the Turkey River land district.

## CHAPTER III

### COUNTY SEAT HISTORY

NO COUNTY SEAT—FIRST LOCATION OF COURTHOUSE—FIRST COUNTY BUILDINGS—GARNER DONATES THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A COURTHOUSE—THE COUNTY SEAT FIGHT.

For several years after the organization of Hancock County the official business of the civil division was carried on at whatever place the county officials called home—sometimes at Upper Grove and sometimes at Ellington, as well as at other places in the county. The few books composing the county records were transported from place to place in a wagon, as new officials were elected. An attempt was made to locate the county seat permanently at Amsterdam and on December 1, 1860, a contract was entered into, by and between M. P. Rosecrans, then county judge, and B. A. Hill, by which the latter party agreed to build for the county a courthouse in the village of Amsterdam, Hancock County, for and in consideration of \$2,000. All the papers were drawn and signed, and the plans and specifications made, but the county judge ceased to be the supreme ruler January 1st following, consequently the matter was dropped, the parties enjoined from proceeding by writ of injunction from the district court made on application of many of the legal voters of the county.

Then came the first location of the courthouse and county seat of Hancock. The minutes of the supervisors' meeting held on November 4, 1865, are as follows:

"Board met pursuant to adjournment. All members present this A. M. John L. Popejoy, Esq., of Franklin County, and James Goodwin of Cerro Gordo County, two of the commissioners appointed to locate the seat of justice of Hancock County and present the following report: In pursuance to the order issued by the Twelfth District Judge, W. B. Fairfield, to John L. Popejoy, James Goodwin and S. B. Hewitt to locate the county seat of Hancock County, Iowa. James Goodwin and John L. Popejoy met pursuant to said order and located said county seat on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 96, Range 23, at a point sixteen chains and fifty links north and one chain and fifteen links west from the quarter post on the south side of said section, then believing said site to be the best

location in said county, taking into consideration the present as well as the future prospects of the inhabitants of said county.

“Dated November 4, 1865,

“Signed,

JOHN I. POPEJOY,  
JAMES GOODWIN.

“On motion of C. Robbins the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved that the board of supervisors of Hancock County proceed to build two buildings at the county seat, to be occupied by county officers, on the southeast quarter of southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 96, Range 23. (Record further gives sizes of buildings, sixteen by twenty-four frame and other specifications.)

“On motion James Crow was appointed by the board to procure title to the land upon which the county seat is located and also to survey a village and furnish the board with a plan of the same.

“The board resolved itself into a building committee to superintend said buildings and appropriated \$2,000 to pay for the same.”

On December 4, 1865, the board held another meeting, the minutes of which follow:

“Board was notified by John Maben, chairman of the building committee, that the buildings were ready for occupancy by the officers, etc.

“A deed from Truman Seymour to Hancock County, dated February 27, 1866, conveying to said county the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 96, Range 22, west of the fifth principal meridian, Iowa, was filed for record March 16, 1866, and duly recorded in book D, page 454, of the deed records of Hancock County.”

The record further shows that proper notice of ten per-cent tax on all taxable property in Hancock County was ordered by the board.

The first county buildings owned by Hancock County were two frame edifices erected in November, 1865. These offices were each sixteen by twenty-four feet and nine feet high. On the 5th of December of the same year the board of supervisors instructed the clerk that he was to notify the various officers that they must take possession of these and keep their books and papers therein.

During the year 1867 the board of supervisors submitted to the people of the county a proposition that they would levy a tax of ten mills on the dollar of taxable property, in the county, for the purpose of building a courthouse. At the special election ordered for that purpose, through some misunderstanding, the proposition was defeated by a vote of thirty-five to nineteen. However, at the next

meeting of the board, a petition was presented, signed by about forty of the qualified voters of the county, asking a resubmittal of the question, and the board granted the same, and ordered the election to take place on the 23d of the following March. Upon this date the voters cast their ballots for the tax by a score of fifty-five to eighteen. The board of supervisors at once proceeded to let the contract for the construction of the courthouse. The contract was let to Grove R. Maben. During the summer he constructed the building and about the last of the year 1868 turned it over to the county officials. It was built of brick, which Maben burned upon his own farm in Ellington and hauled to the chosen site. On the first floor on each side of a wide corridor were the our principal offices of the county and at the rear the safety vault. The court room was in the second story. The original contract with Maben called for the sum of \$9,000, but alterations and additions brought the figure up to \$10,000 before the building was completed.

The first two offices constructed by the county were built of pine throughout from the flooring to the shingles. A report was made to the board of supervisors showing that these first buildings cost the county the sum of \$1,797.55, but a stable had been erected at the same time and place for \$582.90, making in the aggregate \$2,380.45. This amount was swelled by \$180, allowed or time employed by John Maben, chairman of the board, in overseeing the work of building and \$19.55 for fencing the lot. The bids for the erection of the 1867 courthouse ran as follows: G. R. Knapp, \$9,800; G. W. Beadle, \$8,500; J. C. Bonar, \$8,900; John Christie, Sr., \$8,500; Charles Bice, \$8,449; H. N. Brockway, \$9,444.44; G. R. Maben, \$9,000; J. P. Gardner and Robert Clark, \$9,000; A. D. Hiams, \$9,000; George Butts, \$9,000; David Lean and L. Hill, \$9,000. As mentioned before, the contract was let to G. R. Maben.

In the latter part of the year 1898 there arose the noted county seat fight between Garner and Britt, which struggle was not definitely decided until over five years later. The bitterness and hostility aroused by this county seat trouble was an unfortunate thing for Hancock County, although the old feeling has largely been eradicated. Britt desired the county seat to be removed to her site from Concord and in February, 1898, donated a block of ground and bonded itself for \$25,000 to insure the erection of a courthouse without expense to the county. On March 30, 1898, a petition was filed in the county auditor's office, formally asking that the county seat be relocated in the town of Britt. Garner donated \$30,000 in cash for the erection of a courthouse. During the summer of 1898 the petition of Britt was acted upon by the board of county supervisors and found insufficient. The

affair dragged through the trial court and then was taken to the Iowa supreme court. The courthouse at Garner was built during the interval. The supreme court rendered a decision on October 17, 1899, the text of which is quoted below, as giving a concise history of the case up until this time:

"Thos. A. Way, et al. }  
vs.                            } Two cases.  
E. P. Fox, et al.            }

"These two cases involve the same question. The first is a certiorari proceeding to test the legality of the proceedings of the defendants sitting as a board of supervisors on changing the site of the county buildings of Hancock County. The second is an injunction suit to restrain the defendants from removing the county seat from what was theretofore known as the village of Concord, to the town of Garner.

"The trial court quashed the writ issued in the first case and sustained a demurrer to the petition in the second, and plaintiff's appeal.

"About thirty years ago the county seat or seat of justice of Hancock County was located on a block of ground known as the courthouse square, situated on the southeast quarter of Section 31, Township 96, Range 23, west of the 5th P. M., the said forty acres being known as the town plat of Concord. A small unincorporated village grew up on this town plat and ever since the location of the county seat a courthouse and other county buildings have been maintained upon the courthouse square or block. During the whole of the said thirty years the courts have been held at this courthouse and all the official business of the county has been transacted at the seat of justice so established. In February, 1898, the citizens of the incorporated town of Britt, also located in said county, attempted to secure a relocation of the county seat at their town. While these citizens were circulating their petition the inhabitants of the town of Garner, which is also a municipality, duly incorporated, and located in Hancock County, but a short distance from the village of Concord, began proceedings to annex that part of the village of Concord to their town. An election was held and said territory with all that intervened was duly annexed to the town of Garner. Between the original limits of the town of Garner and the plat of the village of Concord is a large amount of land used wholly for agricultural purposes which has not been platted, and which the petitions allege was in no way needed for municipal purposes nor for the prospective future growth and development of the town of Garner. It is further alleged that these annexation proceedings were for the sole purpose of relocating the county seat at Garner.

"After the annexation proceedings were concluded, certain citizens of the town of Garner filed with the board of supervisors of the county a proposition offering the county the sum of \$30,000 to be expended in purchasing a site and erecting a courthouse in the incorporated town of Garner, as it existed before the annexation proceedings were had. Shortly thereafter the petition for removal to the town of Britt was presented to the board of supervisors and found insufficient. After this finding was made the board of supervisors accepted the proposition made by the citizens of Garner and decided to erect a courthouse with the money procured for that purpose and to locate the same upon what is known as Block 12, Talman's Addition to the town of Garner. This Block 12 is not within the limits of the village or town plat of Concord, but is about one mile north of the same and within the territory of the incorporated town of Garner as it existed prior to the annexation proceedings.

"The county auditor was authorized to expend \$4,000 for the site and a committee was appointed to procure plans and specifications for the new courthouse. A postoffice has been maintained by the government at the village of Concord during all of the thirty years heretofore mentioned.

"It is alleged in the injunction proceedings that unless restrained the defendants will remove the county seat and all the records of the county to the site so purchased; that they will build a courthouse at the new site and thus effectually relocate the county seat.

"These facts are not in dispute and the questions presented for our solution are: Have the defendants as a board of supervisors of Hancock County exceeded their jurisdiction or otherwise acted illegally, and shall they be enjoined from relocating the county seat at a point within the town limits of Garner as they existed before the annexation proceedings were begun.

"Some of the questions suggested by these records are so well settled as to be beyond the range of controversy. First, there is no doubt that the town of Garner had the right by proper proceedings to annex adjacent and outlying territory, and in so doing to include the village of Concord within its limits. Second, the board of supervisors had no right to relocate the county seat without following the express provisions of the statute as found in the Code, Section 394 to 409 inclusive. Third, the board had no right to purchase real estate for county purposes when the expense exceeded \$2,000, nor to order the erection of a courthouse when the probable cost would exceed \$5,000, without submitting the proposition to the legal voters of the county. Code, Section 423.

"Subject to these limitations it had the right to purchase the nee-

sary real estate for the use of the county and to remove the site of, or to designate for any county buildings required to be at the county seat; provided the site shall not be beyond the limits of the town, village or city, at which the county seat is located. Code, Section 422; sub. div. 9.

“With these questions settled we come now to the controlling one in the case and that is: did the board of supervisors in making the order heretofore cited, and purchasing the site for the new courthouse in the town of Garner, relocate the county seat?

“Appellees contend that this was the effect of the proceedings. On the other hand, it is insisted that the board did nothing more than remove the site of, or designate a new site for the courthouse, and that the site selected by them was within the limits of what we may call the greater town of Garner, at which the county seat is located.

“In solving the questions thus presented we must first determine what was the county seat of Hancock County at the time the proceedings were had, of which complaint is made. The county seat is the place properly designated for doing the business of the county, the place at which the public buildings are erected, where the courts are held and the county officers are located. The term does not necessarily mean the county buildings or the land on which they are situated. In common parlance it means the town or municipality where the buildings are located and the business transacted.

“Whallon vs. Cir. Ct. Judge, 51 Mich. 503.

“It is not necessarily coextensive with the town where located.

“State vs. Atchison County, 44 Kas. 186.

“State vs. Smith, 46 Mo. 50.

“State vs. Harwi, 36 Kas. 503.

“In the absence of statute it seems to be well settled that when a city or town is selected as a county seat the boundaries of such city or town as they then exist become the boundaries of the county seat and the subsequent inclusions of more territory does not remove the county seat. See authorities last cited.

“One of the statutes to which we have referred seems to authorize a change of site for the courthouse, provided, the place selected is within the limits of the town at which the county seat is located.

“Now, the county seat of Hancock County was located at Concord, and a pertinent inquiry is, when, if ever, was it changed to Garner? Appellees say that was done when Garner extended her limits. But is



OLD HANCOCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Built 1867-1869. Occupied in the fall of 1868. Abandoned in 1896.



that proposition sound? True it is, that Garner has extended her limits and has taken in the village of Concord, but did that act alone change the location of the county seat? Had Concord incorporated and extended her limits so as to take in what is now the town of Garner, there would be less doubt of the legality of the proceedings. But that was not done. Here Garner extended her limits so as to take in the county seat and by that act alone she claims the county seat.

“It does not seem to us that the propositions advanced by appellee’s counsel are sound. If they are, then all that is necessary to effectuate a relocation of the county seat is for the town that seeks to secure the relocation to extend its boundaries in such a manner as to absorb the seat of justice and the act is accomplished. In this manner county seats could be removed without the vote of the people affected thereby and the provisions of the law be made wholly ineffectual. There is no doubt that the county seat was located at the village of Concord and it is doubtless true that the village as a village has been absorbed. But the mere absorption of the territory did not remove the seat of the county government. That was just as definitely fixed after the extension of the city limits of Garner as it was before. The platted portion of the village of Concord is just as easily identified now as it was before the change, and that part of it which constituted the county seat is just as much the county seat now as it was before the inhabitants concluded to become, for municipal purposes, a part of the town of Garner.

“A village is defined to be a town site platted and incorporated. The question as to when the county seat was located at the town of Garner has not been satisfactorily answered by appellee’s counsel. Of course, we will grant that, if Garner ever became the county seat the board of supervisors had the right to select a new site for the courthouse, provided they located it within the limits of the town. But we ask again: When did the legislature or the people of the county determine that Garner was the county seat? When did the people of the county, who alone could determine upon a relocation, say that it should be changed from what is known as the village of Concord to the incorporated town of Garner? As the electors of the county are the only persons who can relocate the county seat, surely the inhabitants of a town adjoining the seat of justice cannot by proceeding to annex territory contiguous to the town in which they live, relocate the county seat.

“For county seat purposes the territorial limits of the village of Concord are as well defined and as distinct now as ever they were, and the electors of the county have never indicated in any proper manner that they desired a change.

“The limitations of Section 423 of the code with reference to the amount that may be expended by the board in erecting a courthouse, or in purchasing a site therefor have no application in the case before us, for it clearly appears that the money which the defendants proposed to expend was donated by the citizens of Garner.

“Appellees further contend that neither certiorari nor injunction is the proper remedy to correct the evils complained of. We think that certiorari is the proper remedy by which to test the legality of the proceedings of the board of supervisors, and that injunction will lie to restrain the removal of the books and records.

“In the first case the action of the board of supervisors in ordering a relocation and change of the county seat is *annulled*.

“And in the second case the ruling on the demurrer will be reversed and the case remanded for a decree in harmony with this opinion. *Annulled and reversed.*”

This momentous decision of the Iowa supreme court was regarded as a victory by the people of Britt, as it would force the question to a vote of the people. Consequently, the “Garnerites” and the “Brittishers” assembled their forces for the fight during the next four years before such an election could be held. Much ill feeling was engendered and the newspapers of Garner and Britt kept up a lively skirmish. The Britt Tribune christened the Garner people by the amusing term of “Whispering Willies,” and attributed to them during the course of the next few years every trait in the criminal category. Likewise vice versa. The Tribune, immediately after the decision was handed down from the supreme court, took occasion to remark: “The county seat will remain in the ‘dove cote of dilapidation’ for about four years now. (Meaning Concord.) The people will walk over the intervening farm lands for a mile and a half every time they want to go to the county seat. Our good friends of Garner will doubtless find some good use to put their private courthouse to and then we will bring the county seat question to a vote of the people and Britt will build one that will equal in magnificence the Temple of Solomon, and we may possibly buy Garner’s private courthouse to set up on top of ours for a bird house.” The Garner people organized a railroad company and started to build a line to Crystal Lake in order to make sure of the votes of the people in the latter vicinity when the question came to a show down.

Notwithstanding the decision of the supreme court the board of supervisors, on January 4, 1900, voted to pay for heating the new courthouse, which had been constructed by the citizens of Garner, for the use of rooms for three county officials—the sheriff, county attorney and superintendent of schools. Injunction proceedings were instituted

immediately by the other side and on March 12, 1901, the district court handed down a final decree in the case. It follows:

"In district court of Hancock County, state of Iowa, February term, A. D. 1901. Thomas A. Way et al., plaintiffs, vs. E. P. Fox et al., defendants, judgment and decree.

"Be it remembered that on this 12th day of March, A. D. 1901, being the 15th day of February, 1901, term of this court, this cause coming on for hearing and decision upon the defendants' default and upon offers made and upon the plaintiffs' verbal application for a decree and the court being fully advised in the premises, it is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that the defendants, E. P. Fox, R. M. Day, H. T. Rose, W. C. Richards and F. J. Oxley, being individually county supervisors of said county and their successors in office and E. F. Brummond, county auditor of said county and his successors in office be and they are hereby perpetually enjoined and restrained, as follows:

"1st. From removing and moving the county seat and courthouse site of said county from its present location on the original town or village site of Concord in said county.

"2d. From removing and moving the county offices and county records, books and papers from the courthouse and said courthouse block in said village of Concord to any point or place outside of said original town or village of Concord, that is to any point outside of the land described as the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 96, Range 23.

"3d. From establishing the county seat of said county at or within the limits of the original town of Garner in said county as it existed before the annexation of the territory which was annexed in the year 1898.

"4th. From establishing the courthouse of the said county or any county offices or office at or upon block No. 12 of Tallman's Addition to the town of Garner, in said county or elsewhere than at the county seat at Concord on said forty acre tract of land above described.

"5th. From declaring or making or using said block No. 12 as the site of county buildings or for any county offices.

"6th. From establishing the courthouse or any of the county offices of said county including the offices of said county superintendent, sheriff, and county attorney, at or upon the new courthouse so called situated upon said block 12 in Tallman's Addition to the town of Garner, in said county, and from providing and furnishing county offices therein and paying from the funds of said county for the coal and heating of said new courthouse or any part or room thereof on said

block and from ordering or drawing any warrants from said county funds therefor and that the defendants pay the costs.

“A permanent writ of injunction may issue herein as provided by this decree and reciting in substance of this decree.

“But nothing herein contained shall prevent the legal electors of said county from hereafter beginning and completing proceedings as provided by law for the relocation of the county seat of said county and if such proceedings shall be commenced hereafter nothing herein contained shall prevent the defendants or their successors in office from doing any of those acts in reference to such proceedings which boards of supervisors and auditors can lawfully perform in like proceedings.

“And to the above decree both parties and both sides now in open court agree and consent.

“Dated this 12th day of March, A. D. 1901. Signed in open court.

“J. F. CLYDE, Judge.”

This practically ended the contest, except the customary verbal exchanges, until the election on November 3, 1903. The contest at the polls was a hot one, notwithstanding the vote of 2057 to 568 in favor of Garner. The board of supervisors of Hancock County met within a few days after the election and the minutes of the meeting show what action they took.

“Relocation of county seat: Shall the proposition to change the county seat to Garner, Iowa, be adopted? Yes, 2057; No, 568.

“Whereas, the board of supervisors of Hancock County, Iowa, find upon canvassing the vote upon the proposition submitted to the voters of said county at the election held therein, on November 3, 1903, to wit: ‘Shall the proposition to change the county seat to Garner, Iowa, be adopted?’ that 2057 votes were cast for said proposition and 568 votes against the same and the board find that a majority of all the votes cast on said proposition were in favor thereof, be it resolved by the board of supervisors that said proposition is hereby declared carried, and the said town of Garner as now constituted is hereby declared to be the county seat of said Hancock County, Iowa.

“Be it further resolved, that the respective county officers of said county, required to keep their offices at the county seat, shall as early as practicable hereafter, not to exceed thirty days from the passage of this resolution, remove the records and documents of their respective offices, to the location in said town of Garner, selected by this board as the courthouse site. And the county auditor is hereby directed to make the necessary and proper record of all the facts, findings and orders.

“On motion the foregoing was unanimously adopted.

"On motion the board unanimously accepted the following confirmation of the gift of building and grounds:

"To the board of supervisors of Hancock County, Iowa:

"The undersigned trustees of what is known as the Garner courthouse fund, having on the 10th day of September, 1898, made, executed and delivered to Hancock County, Iowa, a deed to the following described real estate, to wit:

"Block No. Twelve (12), of Tallman's Addition to the town of Garner, Hancock County, Iowa, as a gift to said county for certain prescribed purposes, which deed is recorded in the records of Hancock County, Iowa, in Book 10 of deeds on page 575, and whereas circumstances have up until this time prevented said Hancock County, Iowa, from taking possession and occupying said premises for the purposes for which they were so donated, and whereas said county can now legally take possession and occupy the same:

"We do therefore hereby ratify and confirm the said gift so made of said premises, and hereby ratify and confirm according to its terms, the conveyance thereof, executed as aforesaid, and do hereby ratify and confirm the gift of thirty thousand dollars made to said Hancock County by citizens of Garner, Iowa, and vicinity through us as such trustees for the purpose of purchasing said site and erecting the building now erected thereon.

"In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hand, this 9th day of November, A. D. 1903.

"WILLIAM C. WELLS,  
"WILLIAM SHATTUCK,  
"WILLIAM SCHNEIDER,  
"JOHN CHRISTIE, JR."

On motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Be it resolved: That whereas in the year 1898 certain citizens of the town of Garner, in Hancock County, caused to be deeded to Hancock County block No. 12, Tallman's Addition to the town of Garner, and which is within the corporate limits of said town, and which deed was so made and delivered as a donation to said county, with intent that said block would be accepted and used by said county as a site for a new courthouse, and which deed is now of record in said county, and in force according to its terms,

"And whereas, the citizens of Garner and vicinity did donate and furnish to the said county a fund of money with which a substantial and suitable courthouse has been erected on said block No. 12; and which is now in suitable condition to be accepted for court and office purposes:

“Now, therefore be it resolved, by the board of supervisors of Hancock County, Iowa, that the said block No. 12 in Tallman’s Addition to the town of Garner be designated as the new site for a courthouse for said county and such offices as may be kept therein.

“That the donations of said funds with which said block was bought and said courthouse was built be accepted, and that said block No. 12 be henceforth known as the courthouse site of said Hancock County.”

Thus ended the county seat fight in Hancock County.

## CHAPTER IV

### ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWNSHIPS-- EARLY SETTLEMENT

ORIGIN OF THE TOWNSHIP SYSTEM—ORGANIZATION OF HANCOCK COUNTY TOWNSHIPS—TOWNSHIP SETTLEMENT—AMSTERDAM TOWNSHIP—AVERY TOWNSHIP—BINGHAM TOWNSHIP—BOONE TOWNSHIP—BRITT TOWNSHIP—CONCORD TOWNSHIP—CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP—ELL TOWNSHIP—ELLINGTON TOWNSHIP—ERIN TOWNSHIP—GARFIELD TOWNSHIP—GERMAN TOWNSHIP—MADISON TOWNSHIP—MAGOR TOWNSHIP—ORTHEL TOWNSHIP—TWIN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

#### ORIGIN OF THE TOWNSHIP SYSTEM

Before describing the early settlement of the townships in Hancock County, something must be said of the origin and history of townships in the United States. Townships in this country are divided into two classes—congressional and civil.

Theoretically, the congressional township is six miles square, divided into thirty-six sections, bounded by township and range lines, each section a mile square, and the whole comprising a total of six hundred and forty acres of land. The congressional township is used as the basis for all land descriptions and county records of lands and land dealings. However, in some cases the converging meridians of longitude, or an error on the part of the surveyor, results in a township of this kind being smaller or larger than the specified six miles square, thus causing fractional sections to be entered upon the records.

The civil township is a political subdivision. Although it frequently corresponds in extent to the congressional township, its boundaries are not confined to the lines of the government survey. Natural features, such as rivers and streams, also land ridges, often form the boundaries of this type of township. Another difference is that the civil township is generally distinguished by a certain name, while the congressional township is always described by the number of the township and range lines.

The civil township is the older of the two types. The Pilgrims, soon after their arrival at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620, began to

develop a form of local government, modeled after the Anglo-Saxon "tunscipe," which had been copied from the Teutonic "mark." The "tummoot," or town meeting, of the Anglo-Saxon gave every citizen an opportunity to express his views and the "tunreeve," or headman, was required to carry out the wishes of the people. The tummoot was transplanted to New England soon after the first settlements were founded in that section. The first town meetings in this country were held in the settlements of Plymouth, Boston and Salem, Massachusetts. Other settlements initiated the system and during the colonial period of Ameriean history the town meeting, or "folk-moot," as it was often called, was a feature of New England. Some authorities, among them Fiske, have stated that this form of local government was the nearest to a pure demoeracy ever known.

At first the township meant simply a "tract of land granted to persons who intended there to settle a town and gather a church." After the beginning of the settlement it was ealled a town and the outlying and unsettled portions of the grant were called the township, but after a time the two terms were used synonymously. These grants or townships were incorporated by the colonial authorities and given certain specified powers. In the town meeting the people were authorized to elect officers, called selectmen, to manage the affairs of the township; a field-reeve whose duty was to impound stray animals until the owner could be found; the hog-reeve who was empowered to see that every hog at large should have a ring in its nose; and a constable who was to obey the orders of the selectmen. In some settlements the selectmen made it the duty of the constable to "tickle the noses of those who were inclined to go to sleep during church services and keep them awake for the good of their souls." The town meeting also levied taxes, made appropriations for the support of the schools and the building of roads, etc. The famous military organization known as the Minute Men had its origin in the town meeting. Some of the resolutions adopted by the town meetings of New England contained clauses, the sentiment of which were afterward embodied in the Deelaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson said of the town meeting in 1807: "How powerfully did we feel the energy of this organization in the cause of the Embargo. I felt the foundations of government shaken under my feet by the New England townships. There was not an individual in their states whose body was not thrown with all its momentum into action, and although the whole of the other states were known to be in favor of the measure, yet the organization of this selfish community enabled it to overrule the Union." Notwithstanding this defeat of the purposes of the Embargo Act, and finally of the Act itself, Jefferson repeated: "They have

proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government and for its preservation."

In establishing the township system in New England, town meetings were at first held quite frequently. Some of the settlers, who were busily engaged in the work of developing the resources of the new country, complained that this took too much of their time, so the annual meeting was ordered, with the provision that special meetings could be called whenever necessary. Boston did not abandon this form of local government until 1820, when the seven thousand voters of the city made the town meeting so unwieldy that representative government was introduced. The principle of representative township, county and municipal government was first worked out and applied in the state of New York. From that state it spread westward and southward. In the southern states the county is the unit of local government and the township is practically unknown. In the states of the Mississippi Valley the township system is a combination of the New England and New York ideas. As the New England town meeting elected delegates to the general court, or assembly, so each township in Hancock County at first elected a supervisor, to serve on the county board of supervisors. In 1871 supervisors were elected from districts instead of townships in Hancock County. There are sixteen civil townships in the county of Hancock, their names and date of organization following:

- Madison Township; organized on June 28, 1858.
- Avery Township; organized June 4, 1861.
- Ellington Township; organized June 4, 1861.
- Amsterdam Township; organized June 4, 1861.
- Concord Township; organized October 9, 1869.
- Crystal Township; organized October 9, 1869.
- Britt Township; organized October 14, 1873.
- Magor Township; October 14, 1879.
- Erin Township; October 14, 1879.
- German Township; October 14, 1879.
- \* Ell Township; October 14, 1879.
- Twin Lake Township; October 7, 1882.
- Garfield Township, 1880.
- Bingham Township; October 14, 1879.
- Orthez Township; October 7, 1882.
- Boone Township; November 2, 1880.

The history of the county board of supervisors and their proceedings may be found in the chapter on Organization and Government of Hancock County.

## TOWNSHIP SETTLEMENT

## AMSTERDAM TOWNSHIP

Amsterdam Township consists of the Congressional Township 94 North, Range 25 West, and is bounded as follows: on the north by Erin Township, on the east by Twin Lake township, on the west by Magor Township and on the south by Wright County.

The first settler to locate within the limits of this township was a man named Langfelt, who settled on the southeast quarter of Section 12 about the year 1865. Little is known of Langfelt as he did little of immortal character while here and soon left. In 1868 J. B. Leavitt settled on Section 27, but remained just a year, then moved into Kansas, where he thought better opportunities awaited him. It is thought that the next settler to come to Amsterdam Township was George Hooker, who located on Section 14 in the year 1871. Of Hooker also little is known at the present day, as he did not become a permanent resident. W. H. Pritchard purchased his property in 1876.

The first marriage in the township was that of William R. Smith and Ada M. Payne.

## AVERY TOWNSHIP

Avery Township is composed of Congressional Township 94 North, Range 23 West, and is bounded as follows: on the north by Ell Township; on the west by Twin Lake Township; on the south by Wright County and on the east by Cerro Gordo County.

The first settler in Hancock County located in Avery Township on September 9, 1854. This was Anson Avery, from whom the township was named. The previous winter C. D. Philo and George Nelson had come up in this direction on a hunting and trapping expedition, and had encamped at this place all during the winter while hunting for game. The beauty and natural advantages of the country appealed to Nelson and he determined to return here and take up a permanent claim. However, Anson Avery arrived before he returned. The Avery and Nelson families were the only ones here during the winter of 1854-5. More of the early settlement of this township is given in the chapter on the early settlement of the county.

The first child born in the township was George, son of Anson and Lovina Avery, whose birth occurred in January, 1855. The first death was that of George W. Haskins, son of Benoni and Abigail Haskins, on June 2, 1855; he was buried on his father's land, on the southwest quarter of Section 29. The first marriage was that of Albert Yonkers

and Jane Haskins in 1856. The couple went to Mason City to have the ceremony performed. The match proved an ill-starred one, as they shortly separated and the husband eventually went to prison.

Avery Township was organized in 1858 and then comprised the south half of Hancock County, or what now constitutes the townships of Ell, German, Erin, Boone, Magor, Amsterdam, Twin Lake and Avery. The first election for township officers took place in June, 1858, at the home of Benoni Haskins on Section 29. No official record exists of this election and all that is obtainable in the way of historical information is that Robert L. Irwin and Orrick Church were elected justices of the peace and Thomas Magill constable. After the other townships were organized and Avery Township assumed its present size and form in 1878 a new organization took place and the following officers were chosen to manage the affairs of the civil division: Anson Avery and James Wilson, trustees; C. M. Church, clerk; C. S. Farmer, assessor; C. J. Boughton and C. S. Farman, justices; James Thomas and Frank Carpenter, constables.

A water grist mill was erected on the Iowa River in this township by A. D. Hiams in 1873. This mill was located on Section 30. It was a frame structure, twenty by thirty feet, and two stories in height. There were two run of buhrs, one for flour and one for meal.

The cemetery was first established in Avery Township in 1862 and was located on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 29. The first burial in this cemetery was that of the two children of M. S. Gilman and George Savogue in 1863.

#### BINGHAM TOWNSHIP

Located in the northwest corner of Hancock County is the township of Bingham, comprising all of Congressional Township 97, Range 26. Crystal Township forms the east boundary and Orthel Township the south.

The first settler in Bingham Township was Silas J. Wright. He purchased a portion of the school lands on Section 16 in 1868. He started active farming in pioneer style, but soon tired of the country and returned to Illinois, whence he had come. John Bingham, who located on Section 20 in May, 1869, has been credited by some as being the first permanent settler. He was a native Englishman, having come to America in 1850 when nineteen years of age. In 1874 the Ross family came to the township and settled on Section 34. After two years' residence here they removed to Kansas. Frank Aiken also came during the last named year, but spent just four years here, then went to the Dakotas. C. H. Barber appeared in the township in 1875 and

located on Section 16. With the latter came his brother, M. T. Barber, who also located upon Section 16. John Quinn and Isaac Emmons entered the township in 1877 and made homes here.

The first birth in the township was that of Elizabeth, daughter of John and Clarissa Bingham, on July 7, 1869. The death of this same child in February, 1874, was the first casualty.

Bingham Township was organized by being set apart from Crystal Township in 1878, although the first election did not occur until October 14, 1879. Then the following were elected to the first offices of the township: J. R. Flack, J. G. Bingham and Frank Aiken, trustees; David Bingham, clerk; J. R. Flack, assessor; Frank Aiken, justice; J. R. Flack, constable.

Notable among the early features of Bingham Township was the township library, which was organized in 1878, when the civil division was formed from Crystal Township.

#### BOONE TOWNSHIP

Boone Township comprises Congressional Township 95, Range 26. The township was first organized in 1880, but at that time included what is now Orthel Township. The latter was set off and the township of Boone became of its present size and form in 1882.

The first pioneer who located in what is now Boone Township was Maurice Day, who settled on Section 6 in 1870. Day erected a crude home for his family, a building of frame, sixteen by eighteen feet in dimensions. Stephen Day, a brother of Maurice, came at the same time. He was a younger man, without family, and stayed only about two years, then moved to Upper Grove in Avery Township. The Day brothers were from the state of Pennsylvania.

The next settler of Boone Township was Iver Nissen, a native of Denmark, who settled on Section 11 during the year 1871. A pioneer named Stanlope, also a native of Denmark, located on Section 11 in 1872. In 1875 he moved to California. J. B. Hill, from Black Hawk County, Iowa, located upon Section 6 in 1876.

The first birth in Boone Township was that of a daughter of Maurice Day, in 1872. The child died while very young. Her death was the first fatality in the township.

On November 2, 1880, the first election was held for township officers, the township then including what is now Orthel. The polls were located at the Daggett schoolhouse. Following is the list of officers chosen at this time: John Holloway, E. Lloyd and T. Pressnell, trustees; Frank Heal, clerk; G. W. Flack, assessor; S. Basford and John Holloway, justices; G. R. Flack and Fred Cook, constables; H. C.

Potter and E. Lloyd, road supervisors of Districts 1 and 2. At the June meeting of the board of supervisors, 1882, the order was issued authorizing the organization of Orthel Township.

#### BRITT TOWNSHIP

The civil township of Britt is identical with Congressional Township 96, Range 25. The first settler in the township was Thomas Clark, who was employed by the railroad as a section boss. He located in what is now the town of Britt in April, 1873. Next came B. McMullen, who built the first frame house in the township in 1874. The previous spring, however, McMullen had broken land on Section 25. R. S. Rasmusson located on the Britt site in March, 1875. Peter and J. Jenson came a short time later. The last named three men were natives of Denmark.

The first child born in the township was Willie Clark, his birth occurring in the summer of 1874. The first marriage in the township was that of a domestic in the household of E. Marshall and a man hired to Mr. Devenpeck. The first death is supposed to have been that of a sister of B. McMullen.

The township of Britt was established October 1, 1873, and the first election for township officers was held at the Devenpeck house on October 14th of the same year. The first officers were: R. M. Day, J. B. Daggett and B. McMullen, trustees; A. J. Sprague, clerk; R. M. Day, assessor; G. Devenpeck and A. J. Sprague, justices; William Porter and G. W. Eddy, constables.

The Evergreen Cemetery was located and established on March 20, 1877, by the township. The board appointed for the work, composed of H. C. Potter, J. H. Burdick and R. S. Rasmusson, selected about five acres on the southeast quarter of Section 28. The first burial was the body of William Wooliscroft, father of Jesse Wooliscroft. The second was Mrs. Breese.

Britt Township happened to be in the track of the destructive cyclone which passed this way June 24, 1882, and suffered more damage than any other township in the county. The buildings belonging to Eli C. Southwick on Section 11 were completely demolished.

#### CONCORD TOWNSHIP

Congressional Township 96 North, Range 23 West, is the township of Concord. It is bounded on the north by Ellington Township, on the south by Ell Township, on the west by Garfield Township and on the east by Cerro Gordo County.

The first settlement was made by James M. Elder, who moved from the settlement in the lower part of the county in December, 1865. The county seat had been located at the village of Concord the previous month and Mr. Elder, having been elected clerk of the courts, removed here. H. N. Brockway, then county treasurer, was the next to locate in the town. The Elder and Brockway families were in fact the only families in the township for about two years.

In 1868 John Milroy came here for the purpose of building a hotel for Leonard & Stanley and after the structure was completed he purchased it, becoming the first landlord. This hotel was the first building in the township outside of the county offices and the dwelling of the officials. It was erected in 1869. Milroy bore a bad reputation and justified it by deserting his family shortly after buying the hotel. In 1869 Samuel R. Kelly came to the village of Concord with his sister and made a settlement. A man named Smith came in 1870, but did not remain long. He was the first school teacher in the district. L. B. Bailey and John Maben were settlers here in January, 1869. In 1868 or 1869 George S. Morse located at the village and opened a store. In 1870 C. D. Pritchard and William Finch came and bought out Morse. About the same time a grocery store was opened by the Knapp brothers.

The first death in the township was that of Charles F., son of James M. and Mary E. Elder, on September 2, 1866.

The first postoffice in the township was established at the village of Concord, or what was then called Hancock Center, in 1867, with James M. Elder as the first postmaster. He was paid the sum of \$12 a year for his services in this capacity, which position he held until 1870, when he was succeeded by C. D. Pritchard. In 1871 Charles C. Doolittle was commissioned postmaster.

The township of Concord was organized in the autumn of 1869 and the first election was held in October of that year. The first officers were: J. M. Elder, Ira Bailey and Manser Dyer, trustees; John Milroy, clerk; J. M. Elder and Ira Bailey, justices of the peace; A. Hoose and S. R. Kelly, constables; and Manser Dyer, road supervisor.

#### CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP

The first settlers in Crystal Township were Edwin Trumbull and Myron Booth. Trumbull located upon the south side of Crystal Lake, broke ground and erected a house. He did not stay long, however, but moved to Webster City. Booth settled near Trumbull's location. In after years he, too, moved to another locality. These two men gave the name of Crystal to the lake near which they settled. In 1866 James

McDowell and Warren E. Turner settled in this township, where they remained, but finally removed, the former to Missouri and the latter to Kansas. B. W. Witt is said to have been another settler of the same year—1866. In 1868 a new tide of emigration came this way and among the newcomers of that year were Eugene Marshall, Jonas A. Scott, Jacob Scott, F. G. Scott, E. W. Scott, Byron F. Scott, W. H. McQuairie, Peter Spang and Luke Nichols. The Scott family became somewhat notable for several reasons, the chief of which was their handling of the school funds. Something is said of this in the chapter on education. McQuairie left this county in October, 1883, for the West Coast. Nichols remained until his death and Spang later returned to New Hampshire. Marshall held several public offices during his residence here, among them being those of county surveyor, superintendent of schools and deputy treasurer. He moved to Caledonia, Minnesota, and entered the banking business.

The first marriage in the township was that of Henry Hennenhofer and Maria Smith in 1872, the ceremony by Luke Nichols, then a justice of the peace. The first birth was a son to William H. McQuairie in 1869. The first death was that of a daughter of F. G. Scott in 1870.

The township of Crystal was organized according to law on October 12, 1869, then consisting of the territory now comprised in both Crystal and Bingham Townships. The first officers elected were as follows: B. F. Scott, county supervisor; E. W. Scott, clerk; William H. McQuairie, assessor; Eugene Marshall, Warren E. Turner and Jacob E. Scott, trustees; John G. Bingham and James McDowell, justices of the peace; B. F. Scott and Myron Booth, constables; Peter Spang, road supervisor. Bingham and McDowell failed to qualify and on March 20, 1870, the trustees appointed William G. Rodman as justice of the peace. Daniel W. Chase was elected constable on November 5, 1872, and was the first person elected to that office to qualify. Eleven votes were cast at the first election.

Crystal Lake postoffice was established in 1870. William G. Rodman was the first postmaster and continued until 1878, when the office was abolished. A township library was organized in 1876.

#### ELL TOWNSHIP

The first settler in Ell Township, which is 95 north, range 23 west, was Sebastian Ell, after whom the township is named. On Section 15 he located in September, 1870, and erected the first house in the township. Ell was a native of Prussia, born there in 1820, and came to American shores when sixteen years of age. He engaged in farming at Columbus, Ohio, for eighteen years, then lived in Ogle County,

Illinois, for thirteen years. Philip Getz also settled in the township in September, 1870, locating upon Section 4. John Bock was another of the pioneers. Bock located upon Section 21 in 1873. Wilhelm Baker arrived here in 1875 and cast his few belongings down in Section 29.

The township of Ell was organized in 1879 and the first election was held on the 11th of October of the same year. This election was held at School House No. 2 and resulted in the choice of the following officers: J. M. Bickford, Sebastian Ell and John Succow, trustees; Charles Kluckhohn, clerk; Frank Robbins, assessor; S. Graham, justice; H. Merrill, constable; Philip Getz, road supervisor. There were twenty-seven ballots cast at this first election.

In 1876 Fred Bock, a brother of John Bock, came here from the old country. Joseph Karr came in from Ellington Township in 1878, having come to the latter division two years previously. Charles Ford was a settler of 1879. John Stork purchased land in Ell Township in 1878. Richard Corey located here in 1880.

#### ELLINGTON TOWNSHIP

This township, one of the first settled in Hancock County, is located in the northeastern corner of the county. The first known settler within the limits of this township was Jacob Ward, who came in with John Maben. The latter located in what is now Madison township, but Ward made a settlement on Section 22 of Ellington Township. Ward came in on September 27, 1855, and he and Maben were also the first in the northern part of the county, the Avery location being in the southern. Jacob Ward, or Uncle Jake as he was called, resided here until the summer of 1881, when he was killed in the cyclone which then devastated a part of the township. June 11th was the date of his demise. In the autumn following the advent of Ward and Maben two others came—Jacob and Harrison H. Rice—and made a settlement on Section 8. The Rices sold out to Maben after a few years and left the vicinity. Philip Tennis was another settler of the year 1855, locating upon the northeast quarter of Section 7. A Mr. Pease who located here in 1855, settled on Section 23. Nearly all of these first settlers moved on when they felt the pinch of civilization; they belonged to the class of men who followed the frontier as it progressed westward.

In December of 1855 Bernard and Andrew Bolsinger, Joseph and Lewis Barth settled in the township. Bernard Bolsinger afterward went to Oregon, there dying, but his brother remained here. Francis N. and Richard Colburn and S. J. Wright made a settlement in the township next, locating on lands in the vicinity of the others during the year 1856. The Colburns were New Yorkers. James C. Bonar located

on Section 7 during the year 1855. He was very prominent in early Hancock County polities. Grove R. Maben made a claim in the township of Ellington in 1857, choosing a site in Sections 6 and 7. He first bought one hundred and twenty acres, but in later years became the owner of over a thousand acres of good tillable land. He constructed a brick house on his farm in 1869, having burned the brick upon his own premises. He also supplied brick for the first courthouse at Concord, hauling them overland the ten miles distance. He also had the contract for building the first house of justice.

The first marriage in the township was that of a man named Edson and a Miss Gillespie in 1859. The birth of Sarah, daughter of Jacob and Emily Ward, in February, 1856, was the first in the township. The first death was that of Calista C. Colburn, infant daughter of Richard and Diana Colburn, in 1858. The death of the mother in the same year was the first among the adults.

The postoffice at Ellington was established in 1859 and Charles C. Doolittle was appointed postmaster. He was succeeded afterward by James Crow, G. W. Beadle and G. W. Gillett.

Ellington Township was organized in June, 1861, the election for officers occurring at the time of the general county election in October, 1861. Francis N. Colburn, James Crow and Jacob Ward were judges of election and B. F. Denslow and C. C. Doolittle clerks. The election resulted in the choice of the following officers: F. N. Colburn, C. Bice and Louis Barth, trustees; Charles C. Doolittle, clerk; James Crow and C. C. Doolittle, justices; and Louis Barth, constable.

In 1857 Wes Hayes came to the township and located in the brush, burning a space large enough for the erection of a small dwelling. S. D. Wilson was a settler of 1868 and A. W. Larson in 1869. E. A. Roberts, F. S. Northup, David Howes, L. W. Chase, E. Tompkins, S. N. Howland were settlers of the late '60s and the early '70s.

#### ERIN TOWNSHIP

Congressional Township 95 North, Range 25 West, known by the name of Erin Township, was first settled in May, 1871, by Garrett Devenpeck. He located on Section 3 and built the first house in the township. He died at his home on September 3, 1883. Mr. Devenpeck was the first justice of the peace in the township, was at the time of his death a member of the county board of supervisors, also held other public offices during his lifetime. The next settler in Erin Township was William J. Porter, who located on Section 3 during the last of May, 1871. Porter boarded at Devenpeck's home while he was breaking the land, but in the autumn of the year erected a house for himself. Porter

was a native of Ireland and came to America in 1845, remaining in Massachusetts until 1868, when he came to the untried West. B. McMullen was the next man to locate in the township—his appearance being in 1873 on Section 11. A Mr. Macken came during the same year and settled on Section 14. In 1874 there came to the township, among others, Michael McGruder, Patrick McGruder and J. O'Rourke.

The first marriage in Erin Township took place on the 27th of February, 1879, between F. T. Burdick and Nellie M. Devenpeck. The first death was that of John Porter, who was killed by a fall from a wagon.

Erin Township was officially organized at the October election of 1879 and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: John Murray, B. McMullen and P. Sheridan, trustees; and G. Devenpeck, clerk.

#### GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

The subdivision of Hancock County known by the name of Garfield comprises the territory lying within Congressional Township 96 North, Range 24 West. The first settler here was John Stork, later a resident of Ell Township. Stork broke the first prairie in the township and sowed the first grain. He also erected the first house. His son, Frank Stork, built the first frame house within the same limits. Among the other early settlers of this township were: John Yarosh, Herman Slick, Joseph Hejlik, John M. Hoesley and Eben Melcher.

The township was organized in 1880 and received its name from President Garfield. The election was held at the Slick school house on November 2, 1880, and resulted in the choice of the following officers: J. M. Hoesley, A. O. B. Smith and John Hartman, trustees; Eben Melcher, clerk; J. W. Finch, assessor; A. O. B. Smith and John Schuler, justices; A. J. Smith and John Dangerfield, constables. At this election the judges were J. M. Hoesley, Eben Melcher and A. O. B. Smith; J. W. Finch and George F. Schuler acted as clerks of election.

#### GERMAN TOWNSHIP

All of Congressional Township 95 North, Range 24 West, is included in the civil township of German. The first settler in the township was Harvey R. Stull, who located upon Section 32 in the year 1869 and built the first home in the locality. Stull left the county a few years afterward and died at Wadena, Minnesota. Manser Dyer, an old settler in the county, moved into German Township in 1870 and erected the second house. Dyer later went to Kansas. The third settler was James Peck, who settled here about 1871, erecting a house

and opening a farm. He remained here until his death on April 6, 1880. Other settlers who came into this township, or to land now within the township, during the early days were: Frank Wellmyer, M. Y. Moore, Henry Switzberg, John Mason and Fritz Griewe, the latter of these in 1875.

The township was organized in 1878 and the first election was held at the Linz schoolhouse on October 8 of the same year. The following officers were chosen at this time: F. Hartke, H. Terhufen, and Henry Stille, trustees; G. P. Mertin, clerk; H. Griewe, assessor; S. W. Mertin, justice; E. Steineke and H. Schwartzenberg, constables. The judges of this election were: Henry Terhufen, E. Linz and G. P. Mertin; S. W. Mertin and F. Linz acted as clerks. Twenty-four votes were cast at the polls.

The first postoffice in the township was established in 1882 and Henry Terhufen was commissioned postmaster. This office was discontinued shortly afterward.

#### MADISON TOWNSHIP

The civil township of Madison comprises the territory known as Congressional Township 97, Range 24 West. It is located in the northern tier of townships and is bounded as follows: On the north by Winnebago County, on the east by Ellington Township, on the south by Garfield Township and on the west by Crystal Township.

The first settlement in the township was made in September, 1855, by John Maben. On the 27th of that month he located in the eastern edge of the present township, on Sections 12 and 13. Maben became one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Hancock County. In the late fall of 1855 James J. Barker and Samuel Jefford made their appearance in this township and settled, the former upon Section 2 and the latter on Section 11. Jefford died of consumption during the winter of 1859. Barker also died while a resident of this county.

In 1856 Eli Moon, Charles R. Wright and George Stroskopf came into Madison Township and effected a settlement. Moon located upon Section 1. Wright chose parts of Sections 12 and 13 and proceeded to open up a farm. He died in 1859 of lung fever contracted while surveying roads. Later settlers of prominence were James Lackore, Harrison Wheelock and Jacob Seibert.

The first birth in the township occurred in January, 1856, being that of a son of Thomas Bearse. The first marriage was that of James J. Barker and Harriet Dawson in 1860.

A cemetery was laid out as a public burial place in 1864 on Section 11. The first interment was that of Charles R. Wright. Wright was

the first citizen of the township to die and was first buried at Forest City, but when the township cemetery was opened his remains were removed here.

The township of Madison, then comprising the north half of Hancock County, was organized in June, 1858. The first election was held at the dwelling of James C. Bonar. The judges of the election were James C. Bonar, Jacob Ward and F. N. Colburn. G. R. Maben and Charles R. Wright were elected justices of the peace and John Jefford and H. H. Rice constables. The names of other officers chosen are not available due to the absence of the official records. The returns of this election, however, were sent to Winnebago County, where they were canvassed by Robert Clark, county judge of that county, and C. D. Stockton and C. W. Scott, justices there.

#### MAGOR TOWNSHIP

In the extreme southwestern portion of Hancock County lies the Congressional Township 94, Range 26. This is Magor Township, so named in honor of Henry Magor, one of its early settlers and representative men. The territory formerly was a component part of Amsterdam Township, but in 1878 it was set apart and made a separate civil division. The first election was held in the fall of that year and resulted in the choice of the following officers for the township government: James Crane and Alvah Packard, trustees; William Magor, clerk; Harrison Bailey, assessor; Thomas Magor, justice; M. Lang, constable; Henry Magor, road supervisor.

The pioneer settler in Magor Township was James Crane, a native of New York state, who located on Section 21 in the year 1866. He was the only settler in this waste of prairie grass until June, 1880, when he was killed. A neighbor named Samuel Bisel who was herding cattle on the range adjoining Crane's land allowed some of the stock to wander into the latter's preserve. Crane became angry and seizing a club started to drive them off. The two men quarreled over the affair and the herder struck Crane over the head twice with his gun. The last blow struck caused the gun-lock to penetrate the skull, death resulting immediately. Bisel was tried, the jury disagreed and the case was carried by change of venue to Wright County, where the defendant was finally acquitted.

The next settler in the township was Harrison Bailey, who located on Section 16 during the year 1869. He did not remain long, but moved into Minnesota. In the spring of 1878 Henry Magor came and located on Section 25. He came here from Wisconsin, although a native of England. He, in partnership with J. E. Corwith, the latter of Galena, Illinois, purchased about 1700 acres of land.

No other settlements were made in this township until the finding of the town of Corwith in 1880. Several men owned land in the township prior to this time, but did not make their residence here.

The first death in Magor Township was that of James Crane. The first birth was that of a daughter of Mr. Crane. The first marriage was that of O. H. Stilson and Lida Olmsted on October 2, 1881.

#### ORTHEL TOWNSHIP

Until the 7th of November, 1882, this township was a component part of Boone, having been set off from the latter at the June session of the board of supervisors during that year. The first election for township officers occurred November 7, 1882. At that time J. J. Donahue, J. M. Orthel and Albert Dyke were judges and F. Heal clerk of the election. The following gentlemen were chosen to fill the various offices, namely: H. C. Potter, J. M. Orthel and Joseph Lains, trustees; Frank Heal, town clerk; J. J. Donahue, assessor; H. C. Potter and A. Dyke, justices of the peace; Fred Schwartz and Jacob Schmidt, constables; H. C. Potter, road supervisor.

The first settler within the limits of the present township was John B. Daggett, who, in the year 1870, opened up his farm on Section 21. Here he erected his house in 1871 and on March 26, 1872, brought his family from Algona, Kossuth County. They traveled on sleds across the prairie. Mr. Daggett was the pioneer in developing the dairy resources of northwestern Iowa. He built a cheese factory and made cheese from the milk of fifty cows in the summer. In the fall and winter he converted his factory into a creamery and manufactured butter. Daggett was a native of Maine. He lived here until his death on March 12, 1879.

The next pioneer was a Mr. Sprague, a New Yorker, who settled about the year 1873. He stayed here about four years, then moved to Kansas. In 1876 Henry C. Potter located upon Section 15. He was from Illinois originally. Alfred Dyke made a settlement within the township in 1878, choosing land in Section 16. Afterward he returned to Wisconsin. Frank Heal was another arrival in 1878.

The first birth in the township was that of Eliphalet Clark Daggett, son of John B. and C. D. Daggett, on June 13, 1873. On the 10th of June, 1874, this same child died, which was the first death here. The first couple to be united in wedlock was August M. Moneelle and Elizabeth Orthel, the license being issued on May 24, 1883.

#### TWIN LAKE TOWNSHIP

All that portion of Hancock County contained in Congressional Township 94 North, Range 24 West, is known as Twin Lake Township.

Most of the early settlers in this township were preëmptors, locating only for the sake of selling out their claims to others. The first man, however, to make a bona fide settlement was William Arnett, an Englishman, who, with his son and son-in-law, Thomas Summerill, took up claims in the year 1855. They constructed a log cabin for shelter. Arnett was subsequently caught in a blizzard and frozen to death.

Henry Overacker and L. A. Loomis settled in this territory in 1856 and remained for several years. In 1858 Abner Stamp, a native of Pennsylvania, settled on Section 30. He did not stay on the frontier long, however, but returned to his native state. John A. Bailey and wife, with two sons, Lambert B. and Rolla E., E. C. Packard and wife, the latter a daughter of John A. Bailey, were the next permanent settlers in Twin Lake Township. All of them came from Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Here they took up claims upon Sections 6 and 7 in 1864.

For three years these were the only settlers of the township, the settlement being very slow on account of the land being in the hands of speculators and other emigrants going farther westward where cheap land could be procured from the government.

Packard remained on his farm until the fall of 1883, when he moved to Belmond, Wright County. The next settler to take up land in this township was Jonathan Butterfield, who located on Section 14 in 1864. He died in 1880.

The first birth in the township was that of Bertha M., daughter of E. C. and C. N. Packard, on May 28, 1866. The first death was that of Mrs. Henry Langfelt, in October, 1869. She was buried in the Belmond cemetery. The first marriage was contracted between Lambert B. Bailey and F. A. O'Cain, in November, 1864.

The township of Twin Lake was set off during the summer of 1882 and was organized at the general election of October 7th following, when the following named officers were chosen: James Wilson, J. D. Bailey and Levi Gartin, trustees; Eugene Gartin, clerk; E. C. Packard and J. D. Barnham, justices; S. D. Rathburn, assessor; Joseph Brown, constable.

The first postoffice in the township was called Bailey's and was established in April, 1879, with E. C. Packard as postmaster. The office was located at Packard's house on Section 6. N. D. Welch succeeded Packard in this position in September, 1883. Four weekly mails were brought here.

## CHAPTER V

### TOWNS AND VILLAGES

THE CITY OF GARNER—PLATTING—FIRST STORES—INCORPORATION—A RAIL-ROAD PROMOTION—BANKS—POSTOFFICE—LIBRARY—EARLY LODGES—CITY OF BRITT—PLATTING—THE FIRST GLIMPSE—FIRST BUILDING—INCORPORATION—FIRST MERCHANT—BANKS—MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS—FIRST LODGES—LIBRARY—CORWITH—FIRST BUSINESS—BANKS—KANAWHIA—KLEMME—GOODELL—HAYFIELD—MILLER—CRYSTAL LAKE—WODEN—STILSON—HUTCHINS—DUNCAN—OTHER TOWNS NOW DEFUNCT.

#### THE CITY OF GARNER

##### PLATTING

In the summer of 1870 John Maben, in conjunction with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, laid out a town plat on the southwest quarter of Section 30, in Township 96 North, Range 23 West, and filed the official plat in the county courthouse on August 23d of the same year. This plat gives the information that the land was surveyed and laid out into blocks commencing July 19, 1870, and completed July 30, 1870, by C. F. Vincent, surveyor. F. J. Bush, H. H. Bush, S. H. Jimmerson, S. R. Kelley and Henry Marshall assisted Vincent in this task of platting the town, laying out lots and designating streets. Shortly after the filing of the plat for record interests in the new town were purchased by H. N. Brockway and the firm of Bush & Allen. The early settlers gave the new town the name of Garner, in honor of one of the railroad officials.

Since the original plat there have been many additions surveyed and filed, owing to the increase of population and necessity for more building room. Some of the more important of these additions, with the date of filing in the auditor's office, follow: Tallman's Addition to Garner, September 28, 1875; Park Addition, May 7, 1889; Driving Park Addition to Garner, March 31, 1893; West Side Addition, April 25, 1896; Second Driving Park Addition, July, 3, 1899; Sunset View Addition.

The town owes its existence to the advent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad in 1870. Like many other small towns along the route, this was intended by the railroad as a shipping point. Some of

the towns died and others reached a substantial size. Garner belongs in the latter class and business, building and settlement quickly began after the first locomotive steamed into the town.

#### FIRST STORES

The first merchant to open a store in Garner was Royal Lovell. He erected the first store building and, in fact, the first structure of any kind except the depot, in 1870. As soon as he had completed the erection of his building he opened a general merchandise business, carrying about everything which a frontier family would want. He continued without competition for some time, finally moving to more commodious quarters when increased business demanded it. In January, 1881, Mr. Schuler was admitted as a partner and the firm became known as Lovell & Schuler. It is said that they carried fully \$8,000 worth of goods, a truly great stock for a cross-roads store in those days. A. B. Elliott & Company, C. Borman and Hubbard Brothers came into the field within ten years after Lovell began.

The first hotel was constructed by John Davidson of Galesburg, Illinois, in the spring of 1871. He operated it about a year and then it passed into the hands of William Finch, who shortly afterwards converted it into a dwelling house. The next hotel was built by Robert Elder during the year 1873. This was opened as the Elder House, under the management of Robert Elder, later deputy treasurer of the county. The house was later known as the Fehly House. The Cassill House was erected by Mr. Cassill in 1876. The New Victoria Hotel is the principal hostelry of Garner at the present time.

The first furniture store in Garner was established in 1871 by Kemp & Christie. In 1880 William Yoter purchased the business.

The first jewelry store was opened in 1876 by P. S. Dow. At first, owing to lack of capital, Dow rented a portion of the Borman store and there displayed his meager stock. Business increase later permitted him to occupy larger quarters.

The first boot and shoe store was established by G. A. Haes in 1871. The first drug store was established by Funk & Hawley during the year 1871. William Finch afterwards purchased their business. The first hardware store was started in 1870 by Sweeney & Schell, but after running with intermittent success for two years they disposed of their stock to William Finch. He operated it alone until 1875, when he admitted as a partner his brother, T. F. Finch, who in turn the next year purchased William's share.

The lumber business owes its inception in Garner to J. M. Elder, W. C. Wells and T. Woodford, who started a yard in 1870.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, GARNER

Built in 1892. Destroyed by fire January 1, 1902.



The real estate business at first became very profitable, on account of the large amount of land for sale and the number of incoming settlers who wished to purchase. This business has always been maintained as one of the principal ones in Garner. Brockway & Elder, with offices at Concord, and A. C. Ripley, located in Garner, were the first to engage in real estate transactions for this vicinity.

In the spring of 1880 John Burnside and A. R. Barnes established the B. B. Creamery at Garner. They erected a building twenty-four by thirty-six feet, also an ice house twenty-four feet square. With an eight horsepower engine they equipped a plant worth fully \$2,500. They secured the milk from about one thousand cows and reached a daily output of eight hundred pounds of butter. New York City was the marketing place for the butter manufactured here.

The first grain warehouse was erected by Royal Lovell in 1871 and here the first grain was handled in Garner. During the first year of his business in Garner Lovell purchased about 25,000 bushels of grain and in the next year bought fully 45,000. William Finch and Dwight Putnam afterwards constructed elevators.

The first blacksmith in Garner was William Dickson, who opened up in the first year of the town's existence. R. W. Noble and Charles Krouse succeeded him after he forsook the farrier's trade for the plow. Hay-pressing, described in the history of Britt, was also one of the leading occupations of early Garner. H. F. Fiegenbaum, John Burnside and Charles Kluckholm engaged in this business in the early days.

In 1875 John Burnside started a meat market in Garner, which was the first in Hancock County. Charles Valliket was the first to start in the livery business. Kemp & Christie had the first wagon shop, which was opened at the same time they began in the furniture business. The first hall for entertainments was erected in the autumn of 1883 by James and W. C. Moak. It was opened on the evening of November 29, 1883, which was Thanksgiving Day, with an exhibition by the Garner Dramatic Club, entitled "The Hidden Hand."

#### INCORPORATION

Garner was incorporated as a town of the fourth class in 1881 and C. S. Terwilliger was chosen mayor. Since this time the town has gained slowly in municipal improvements, but has added features of benefit to the city as fast as finances would permit. The Enterprise Electric Light, Heating and Power Company was incorporated February 5, 1901. The Garner Commercial Club, an organization for the promotion of everything tending to benefit the city, was incorporated October 23, 1911, and the articles of incorporation were signed by the

following citizens: F. E. Blackstone, president; Isaac Sweigard, vice president; J. F. W. Vrba, secretary; C. R. Sweigard, treasurer; F. M. Hanson, H. M. Hoag, C. J. Schneider, C. J. Bracher and J. C. Grobatz, directors.

#### A RAILROAD PROMOTION

In 1898 a railroad company was promoted by Garner citizens, partly to boost the cause of the town in the fight for the county seat. This road was named the Cedar Rapids, Garner & Northwestern Railway Company and articles of incorporation were filed April 25, 1898, and signed by A. C. Ripley, J. N. Sprole, H. N. Brockway, C. S. Terwilliger, J. E. Wichman, E. P. Fox, M. A. Fell, William Shattuck, E. C. Abbey, H. H. Bush, J. J. Upton, William Schneider, H. M. Hoag, W. C. Schuler, Fred Katler, L. D. Byers, S. Sturgeon, and others. As stated in the articles of incorporation "the object of this road shall be to locate, construct, maintain and operate a railway, with all necessary branches, warehouses, elevators and such other appendages as may be deemed necessary for the convenient use and profitable management of the same from a connection with the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwestern Railway near the village of Hayfield by way of Crystal Lake to some point in the state of Iowa not yet determined."

#### BANKS

The Hancock County Bank was organized in December, 1874, by J. M. Elder and H. N. Brockway and was the first institution of the kind in Hancock County. At the first meeting J. M. Elder was elected president; H. N. Brockway, vice president; and William McBride, cashier. A. R. Barnes later became the cashier. The First National Bank of Garner is the outgrowth of this institution. This latter institution is now officered by the following: F. M. Hanson, president; J. E. Wichman, vice president; J. F. W. Vrba, cashier. The capital stock of the First National Bank is \$50,000; the surplus and undivided profits \$15,000; and the deposits amount to about a half million dollars.

The Farmers National Bank was established in 1891 as the Farmers Savings Bank and the articles of incorporation filed June 26, 1891, and signed by G. R. Maben, E. C. Abbey, William C. Wells, John Burnside, Joseph Barth, with a capital stock of \$15,000. The bank was conducted under state laws until 1906, then was organized as a national bank, with C. K. Moe as president. The present officers of this institution are: Isaac Sweigard, president; F. E. Blackstone, vice president; C. R. Sweigard, cashier; E. C. Ford, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; the surplus and undivided profits \$32,000; and the

deposits about \$400,000. The bank has just completed a new \$20,000 building for its own use. The building is modern and equipped with the latest in bank fixtures and conveniences.

#### POSTOFFICE

The post office at Garner was established in 1870 and Royal Lovell was commissioned the first postmaster. He continued to hold his position for about a year and a half, when he was succeeded by George Lanning. W. C. Haywood and H. H. Bush succeeded Lanning.

#### LIBRARY

The Garner Ladies' Library Association was organized in 1873 by thirteen of the women of the town. These were Mesdames: Robert Elder, Royal Lovell, H. H. Bush, William Finch, W. C. Wells, A. Haes, S. A. Howe, H. C. Knappen, C. E. Holland, N. Mitchell, Walter Dickson, A. B. Cassill, J. F. Veits, A. B. Elliott and D. Gould. The first money procured by this association was earned by socials and entertainments promoted by the ladies named. Their initial fund amounted to only \$60, but from this meager beginning quite a large library was accumulated. In 1882 a \$500 building was erected for the accommodation of the library. The first board of directors consisted of Mesdames: R. Lovell, A. Haes and Walter Dickson. Mrs. H. H. Bush was the first secretary and Mrs. Robert Elder the first treasurer.

In 1915 there was erected in Garner a Carnegie library, costing about \$10,000, the culmination of months of effort upon the part of the library board and the citizens of the town. The finished building is a handsome piece of work and contains all the conveniences of the modern library, as well as a choice collection of books.

#### EARLY LODGES

The first lodge to be organized in Garner was the Masonic. Bethel Lodge, No. 319, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was instituted by dispensation July 27, 1872, by O. P. Waters, of Burlington, Iowa, grand master of the order. There were only eight or ten members at first and the first officers were: J. M. Elder, worshipful master; C. C. Doolittle, senior warden; C. C. Howland, junior warden; J. W. Elder, treasurer; Albert Howe, secretary; L. B. Bailey, senior deacon; Robert Elder, junior deacon; and John Veits, tyler.

Garner Lodge, No. 692, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was incorporated March 23, 1908.

## BRITT

## THE FIRST GLIMPSE

Prior to the year 1870 the site of Britt was nothing but a blank space of prairie and mire, inhabited by various animals of this territory and crossed occasionally by travelers. E. N. Bailey wrote a paragraph in the Tribune at one time, in which he says: "The first time the writer was ever on the ground where Britt now stands was in June, 1874, when hunting curlews. There was a little grocery store just opened up by someone and we succeeded in getting in from the prairie south by dismounting from our horse and wading through water that was 'boot top' deep right on ground that now contains some of the finest gardens and residences in Britt." This experience of "wading" into Britt actively describes the appearance of the village then. However, from this humble and discouraging start Britt has grown to be the largest town in the county and the center of a large trading and farming district, a town of prosperous and modern stores, strong financial institutions and civic excellence.

## PLATTING

The plat of the village of Britt was filed for record at the county seat on June 20, 1878, by John T. Stoneman and William H. Lorimier, proprietors. John T. Stoneman surveyed the ground and named the site of the village as: the south fifty-five acres of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 96 North, Range 25 West, all of the said tracts lying south of the Calmer branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway. Several additions have been filed since, which have added territory to the original plat. The more important of these follow: Anderson's second addition, January 14, 1879; Lattimore's addition, June 10, 1880; Stubbins's addition, January 3, 1881; Maple Hill addition, December 8, 1885; McGraw & Fish addition, December 25, 1886; Stubbins's second addition, March 13, 1886; Brown & Treganza addition, January 6, 1892; Brown & Hill addition, February 18, 1892; Stubbins's third addition, September 24, 1892; Stubbins's fourth addition, same date; Castle's addition, August 31, 1895; Grace Fisk addition, January 27, 1897; Way's westside addition, November 17, 1897; Brown's addition, May 8, 1902.

## FIRST BUILDING

It is said that the first building erected upon the site of Britt was the depot of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, which was put up in 1870. The second was a section house, or shack, about sixty rods east of the depot.

The first residence erected was that of J. H. Burdick. This stood on the south side of the railroad track, opposite the above mentioned section house. Burdick came to this place in 1876.

From the first paper ever published in Britt, December 19, 1879, there is taken the following list of business men: D. R. Putnam, William Finch, grain; Thomas Hymer, K. K. Liquin, lumber; Andrews & Young, hotel proprietors; S. F. Benson, postmaster; E. S. Ross, Ira Fay, coal dealers; Thomas Daylor, G. B. Martin, merchants; F. B. Rogers, hardware; E. Hales, groceries; Doctor Fort, physician; Young Brothers, meat market; J. E. Anderson, Brockway & Elder, C. C. Way, real estate; Farley & McKinney, billiards; William Breeze, blacksmith; Treganza Brothers, wagonmakers; L. N. Miller, shoemaker; A. Moir, druggist; Genie Couper, milliner; Young & Yawney, livery.

The postoffice at Britt was established in 1870 and Robert Lattimore was commissioned postmaster. He was succeeded by S. F. Benson and then came E. E. Adams.

#### INCORPORATION

The town of Britt was incorporated June 23, 1881. The petition to the district court judge for incorporation was duly drawn and signed by the following legal voters of the town: W. E. Bradford, C. C. Way, Jesse Wooliscroft, S. F. Benson, H. F. Fort, K. K. Liquin, A. D. White, W. H. Breese, A. C. Breese, Alex Moir, F. B. Rogers, William Dmaaway, E. E. Adams, J. R. Grover, Benjamin Hudson, I. W. Sprague, E. S. Ross, J. E. Young, A. M. Tuttle, John Johnson, Rodney Hill, John Anderson, G. M. Byerly, J. H. Burns, C. W. Young, J. F. Edwards, B. McArdle, S. A. Healy, M. M. Johnson, R. B. Pope, T. H. Treganza, J. G. Strong, L. J. Miller, J. D. Smith, L. D. Andrews, E. W. Deyoe, Nels Holmberg, E. Hales, G. B. Martin, C. McQuaick, H. E. Hill, E. Blick, H. F. Arnett, William Wright, M. Nugent, C. B. Howe. The petition was acted upon according to the state law and the incorporation granted. J. G. Strong and W. E. Bradford drafted the ordinances first used by the city officials. The first officers chosen for Britt were: George Stubbins, mayor; H. H. Ellsworth, recorder; S. F. Benson, assessor; J. D. Smith, marshal; B. Hudson, street commissioner; Thomas Daylor, John J. Clemmens, H. E. R. Hill, Joseph Treganza, P. S. Ellsworth and D. W. Farrer, aldermen.

The first hotel built in the town of Britt was the Star Hotel, which was erected by S. F. Benson in October, 1876. A. D. White, J. W. Ball and F. B. Rogers were later proprietors. Edwin Hales started a hotel known as the Hales House in the spring of 1880.

## FIRST MERCHANT

In May, 1878, Thomas Daylor erected the first building in the town for the purpose of transacting a mercantile business. He completed the building in August of that year, placed a stock of goods upon his shelves and opened up for business. He was the first merchant. It is said that his first sale was to J. H. Burdick, the sale consisting of twenty-five cents worth of Japan tea. Daylor continued as sole owner of the business until February, 1883, when he admitted Mr. Ennor as partner. For a time after his start Mr. Daylor conducted a grain business on the side, but did not keep this business for over a year. William F. Ennor had been a clerk in Daylor's employ since 1878.

K. K. Liquin was the second merchant in Britt. In August, 1878, he erected his store room and in October opened up for business. He continued to operate his store until March, 1879, when he disposed of it to Henry Lucas, who sold out shortly afterward to G. Stubbins. After he had sold out he went into the lumber trade in partnership with T. Woodford, and later invested in the grain business also. Liquin was a native Iowan and came to Britt from Winneshiek County in 1878.

Dr. H. F. Fort opened the pioneer drug store in Britt on the 17th of August, 1878. He continued until October, 1879, when he sold out to Alexander Moir. J. L. Kinyon was admitted to partnership in 1883. James Temple also opened up a drug store in Britt July 19, 1882.

The first hardware store was established by F. B. Rogers, who came here from New Hampton, Chickasaw County, in 1878. He sold out his stock in 1882 to H. B. Morrison. The hardware firm of E. I. McGraw & Company was started in October, 1882.

A lumber yard was opened in March, 1880, by I. W. Jamison, with S. A. Healy as manager. This company did not continue in the business for any length of time. Joseph F. Bullis started in the coal business in 1881 and added a line of lumber in the next year.

The first exclusive grocery store was started by H. E. R. Hill in April, 1880.

Before the building of the town L. O. Huntley erected a warehouse for purchasing and shipping from this station. The building was constructed in September, 1875, and used for about five years. In July, 1878, two grain elevators, to accommodate the wheat and grain trade, were erected. One was constructed by W. Finch and the other by D. R. Putnam. These were at that time operated by E. P. Finch and were located opposite the Milwaukee depot.

The first man in Britt to deal in agricultural implements was Eugene S. Ross in February, 1879. One of the principal business occupations of the early days in Britt was the pressing and baling of hay for foreign

markets. The first press was started by L. Tuttle in the fall of 1881 and he was afterwards succeeded by Charles Walton. Baker & Brown, J. E. O. Bennett, M. Brown & Son were later firms doing this work.

Although many years have passed since Britt has maintained licensed saloons, they existed freely here at one time. The first saloon was opened in October, 1876, by A. J. Coyle. This one held sway until 1880, when J. W. Farley built a structure to be used as a groghouse.

The meat market business was started at Britt by J. D. Smith in June, 1879. Young Brothers later came into possession of this shop, then the firms of Pope & Hild and Clemons & Smith. The pioneer livery stable was instituted in the spring of 1878 by John Young. After about eighteen months he sold out to G. R. Wolfe. The dray and transfer business was begun by Ira Fay in April, 1880, but three months later it passed into the hands of S. A. Healy.

The first restaurant was opened in 1880 by J. D. Smith. The pioneer blacksmith of Britt was William S. Breeze, who located here and opened up for business in the spring of 1879. I. W. Sprague was the first carpenter and builder in the town, arriving here from Chicago, July 24, 1878. Joseph A. Treganza and Thomas Treganza started a furniture and contracting business in 1879.

#### BANKS

It is very seldom that a town equal in size to Britt may boast of the excellent banking facilities which now exist in that city. Two banks do an immense business here, a fact which well proves the prosperity of the vicinity and the trade spirit of the community.

The present First National Bank had its origin in the year 1879. In this year the Way brothers and E. P. Healy started the Farmers Savings Bank. Later George Beadle came into possession of the property and then Lewis Larson took charge of the institution. The latter gentleman made it into a state bank. This bank became a national bank in 1885 and has since done business under the title of the First National Bank. The present officers of the bank are as follows: C. P. Lewis, president; H. C. Armstrong, vice president; J. P. Spalla, cashier. The capital stock is now \$50,000; the surplus and undivided profits, \$30,000; and the deposits about \$300,000. Articles of incorporation of the Farmers Savings Bank, mentioned above, were filed in the office of the county auditor, November 12, 1889, showing that a bank under this name was then doing business. The incorporators were: J. D. Maben, L. B. Farrar, G. R. Maben, John Paulson and L. B. Sylvester. The capital stock named in the articles was \$10,000. Articles of incorporation for the First State Bank of Britt were filed in the county court

house May 8, 1894, with the following incorporators: C. P. Lewis, A. J. Robinson, G. W. Beadle, Lewis Larson, E. P. Hudson, W. H. Steele, H. Thompson, J. M. Clark, J. D. Bailey, Hans Schroeder, R. F. Cooper, A. F. Horstman, John Paulson, F. L. Wacholz, William Shattuck, J. C. Fulkerson, B. A. Plummer, M. Barton, M. J. Pihl, H. M. Hanson, J. J. Sharp and Mrs. Matilda Sharp. The capital stock was named as \$25,000 and the following specified as the first officers: G. W. Beadle, president; C. P. Lewis, vice president; R. F. Cooper, cashier.

The Commercial State Bank of Britt was started in 1889 as a private bank. E. P. Healy and Thomas A. Way were the originators of this institution. The institution was conducted until 1910 as the Commercial Bank, then in 1911 was incorporated as a state bank. Articles of incorporation were filed in the county auditor's office at Garner, March 26, 1913, as required by law. The capital stock is given as \$60,000 and the officers as follows: C. W. Irwin, president; E. P. Healy, vice president; F. B. Irwin, vice president; D. J. Miller, cashier. These same officers manage the business of the bank in 1917. The bank has a capital stock of \$60,000; surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$115,000; and deposits of about \$700,000.

The firm of Taylor & Osborne began a general banking and real estate business in Britt in June, 1881, with a capital stock of about \$30,000. The banking house of C. C. Way & Company was organized in July, 1881, J. E. Anderson and C. C. Way being the partners in the concern. Shortly after its establishment, however, Mr. Anderson retired from the firm, leaving it in sole charge of C. C. Way. Besides general banking some real estate business was transacted by this concern.

#### MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

In the way of municipal improvements Britt has really just started. Although the city has bonded itself to the limit and assumed obligations which will take years to fulfill, the improvements are worth the cost and add to the attractiveness and efficiency of the community. The first water plant in the city was started in 1894, and at first was a decided failure, going through the hands of many managements. Now the city is well supplied with artesian water, sufficient for private consumption as well as fire protection.

The Britt Light & Power Company was organized October 15, 1914, thus adding another municipal feature to the city. Articles of incorporation, however, were filed July 21, 1900, and signed by R. H. Walker of Hancock, A. J. Ashby of Humboldt County and L. M. Goodman of Decatur County.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, BRITT



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, BRITT



SCENE ON MAIN STREET, SOUTH, BRITT



Another factor which has assisted greatly in the betterment of Britt in the Business Men's Association. This organization for the exploitation of the city was founded in March, 1900.

Adequate sewerage has been laid in the principal streets of Britt and in the summer of 1916 extensive paving was done.

#### FIRST LODGES

Darius Lodge, No. 431, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized at Britt on June 27, 1883, with the following list of charter members: J. A. Treganza, Thomas Taylor, H. E. R. Hill, J. D. Maben, George Stubbins, Joseph Osborne, Moses Brown, J. M. Dunaway, J. F. Bullis, James Dickerson, Thomas Duff, John M. Orthel, S. A. Healy and Mat Johnson. J. A. Treganza was the first worshipful master of this lodge.

Howe Post, No. 179, Grand Army of the Republic, located at Britt, was instituted on May 23, 1883. Gen. Milo L. Sherman of Fredericksburg, Iowa, was the mustering officer. The charter members of Howe Post were: J. G. Strong, M. Nugent, Levi Huntly, H. D. Woodard, Levi Chandler, P. P. Griffin, J. G. Bingham, O. N. Wilcox, Eli Blickens-defer, Jerome Bailey, J. R. Wolf, C. B. Howe, J. F. Bullis, M. McGruder, C. S. Rockwood and Thomas Graham. Capt. J. G. Strong was elected the first commander of the post and H. D. Woodard adjutant. Nearly all of these first members have passed away and the Post, as an active organization has disappeared.

Protection Lodge, No. 611, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was incorporated and the articles filed at the county auditor's office on September 9, 1899. Present Lodges include the W. R. C., also Modern Woodmen.

#### LIBRARY

Although the city of Britt has never had library facilities except the reference works at the school house, plans are made and an endowment secured from Andrew Carnegie for the erection of a \$10,000 library building in the summer of 1917. This building, together with the new school building to be constructed at the same time, will add much to the appearance of the town.

One of the most pretentious bank buildings in Iowa has just been completed in Britt by the Commercial State Bank. Built of brick and stone, finished upon the interior with marble, tile and brass, it is equal to any building of its kind in the state in fixtures and decoration. The cost of the building was \$50,000.

## CORWITH

## PLATTING

The city of Corwith was started by the construction of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad in the year 1880 and is located on the northeast quarter of Section 6, Township 94 North, Range 26 West. J. H. Ambrose surveyed the land and laid out the town in blocks, lots and streets. The site of Corwith was owned by E. W. Gaylord, who held his residence in Angus, Iowa, where he was engaged in the coal and stock business.

## FIRST BUSINESS

The first building erected in Corwith was Gaylord's Hotel, a large two-story frame building. Mr. Gaylord, the town proprietor, constructed the hotel and for two years it was conducted by L. Moon. Gaylord was at that time the superintendent of the railroad and the house was originally erected for the accommodation of the railroad men. The depot of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad was the second building erected in Corwith; it was completed very shortly after Gaylord's Hotel.

In the same year, 1880, the first building for the housing of a mercantile business was put up. The firm of Able & Tierney here ran a saloon for the "liquidification" of the railroad men. This groggery, however, lasted but a bare two months, then the building was sold to O. H. Stilson & Company, who put in a stock of general merchandise. It was sold after a year to Louis Lentengre and was occupied by Frank Heskett's drug store.

In September, 1880, T. P. Griffin erected a store building and dwelling house. In this structure he opened a stock of hardware and general merchandise. For about eighteen months he carried on this business, then sold out to Farner Shaw, who converted the building into a hotel, known as the Shaw House. Mr. Shaw erected a livery and feed stable in the fall of 1883, which he operated in connection with the hotel.

The first residence of any consequence in Corwith was built during the winter of 1880 by B. R. Gass. About the same time dwellings were erected by Hans Ballson, a section boss, George Gurne and J. M. Wood.

The first blacksmith shop was opened in the early winter of 1880 by J. M. Wood. Battle & Lallier started in the same work here in 1882, coming here from New York.

The first general merchandise store in Corwith was opened by O. H. Stilson & Company in September, 1880. This firm carried a

large stock of general dry goods, shoes and boots, clothing, groceries, etc. The stock was worth about \$10,000. In the spring of 1882 another general merchandise business was started by Blair & Owen of Rock Falls. However, in the spring of 1883, they disposed of their stock to William Landiman of Hillsboro, Kansas, who conducted it about two months, then sold out to Thomas Cook & Company.

The hardware business of J. H. Taylor dates from the winter of 1880-1, when it was established by Edward Smith, who erected the building and opened the business. In February, 1882, he sold out to Taylor and removed to Perry, Iowa.

Frank P. Heskett founded a drug business in Corwith in January, 1882. M. O. Tang opened a shoemaking establishment in the spring of 1883.

The Corwith Creamery, one of the most thriving businesses of the early village, was started in the spring of 1882 by Simonet & Kleinpeter. The creamery gathered milk from several counties and during the busy season frequently reached a manufacturing capacity of 1000 pounds of butter daily.

A feed mill was started in Corwith in the summer of 1883 by F. H. Latham. He erected the building, installed the machinery and began active operation on the 1st of September of that year. He ground corn meal, graham flour and buckwheat flour as well as feed. A hay press was started in the autumn of 1883 by L. Tuttle.

The lumber yard of Corwith was established by William Brummond in June, 1880. Brummond was a native of Prussia, was brought to this country when ten years of age, and came to Hancock County in 1879.

A large coal yard was started in the fall of 1880 by Ernest Brummond. Most of the coal handled here during the early days was from Kalo and Otho in Webster County, Iowa. It sold for \$3.25 and \$4.00 per ton.

The postoffice was established at Corwith in the fall of 1880. T. P. Griffin was appointed as the first postmaster. O. H. Stilson was the second one to hold the office.

#### BANKS

Probably the first banking business conducted in the village of Corwith was by J. H. Taylor, who transacted the necessary exchange business.

There have been several banks doing business in Corwith, which are not now active among financial circles in the county. On July 26, 1895, there was incorporated the Corwith State Bank, with a stated capital of \$25,000. Thomas A. Way was the president of this

institution; T. A. Potter, vice president; and H. E. Paul, cashier. The other signers of the articles of incorporation were: Stitzel Way, R. P. Johnson, E. P. Healy, B. C. Way, W. H. Gowdy, S. V. L. Meiggs, W. L. Mitchell, I. Smith and A. W. Schmalle. This bank filed dissolution proceedings July 24, 1901, for reorganization as the First National Bank.

The Corwith Savings Bank filed articles of incorporation December 7, 1892, which were signed by E. P. Healy, B. C. Way, F. B. Rogers, Thomas A. Way, Truman A. Potter and Wesley Aldridge. The capital stock was named at \$25,000.

The First State Bank of Corwith was incorporated and the articles filed with the county auditor October 8, 1895. The signers were: E. L. Stilson, O. H. Stilson, C. M. Gowdy, L. J. Barber, M. B. Sapp, G. W. Mason, Cephas Buttles, F. J. Oxley and J. A. Standring. The capital stock was \$60,000. This bank merged with itself the banking firm conducted by E. L. and O. H. Stilson which was known as the Bank of Corwith.

There are just two banks now active in the town of Corwith—the Commercial Savings Bank and the Farmers Savings Bank. The Farmers Savings Bank was organized in 1908 and incorporation articles were filed on March 14th of that year. E. H. Rich was president; W. C. Oelke, vice president; and Charles J. Naumann, cashier. The present officers are the same with the exception of the vice president, which office is now filled by Ben Major. The first capital stock of this bank was \$25,000, which has been increased to \$40,000 at the present. This bank has a surplus and undivided profits of \$15,000 and deposits of about \$200,000.

The Commercial Savings Bank was incorporated legally on April 18, 1913, with a capital stock of \$10,000 and the following officers: Fred Oxley, president; H. E. Newlin, vice president; W. H. Smith, cashier. W. E. Gourley and F. M. Depue also signed the articles of incorporation. The present cashier of this institution is W. C. Oelke. The capital stock is the same and the deposits amount to about \$35,000.

For school, church and census statistics relative to the town of Corwith, information may be obtained from other chapters in this volume.

## KANAWHA

One of the most progressive small towns in this part of Iowa is Kanawha (pronounced Ka-now'-wha). Kanawha was platted and surveyed in the year 1899. The official plat was filed at the office

of the county auditor on May 3rd. George C. Call was the owner of the land upon which this new town was started and C. B. Hutchins was the surveyor. The land is described in the plat as being part of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 27 and part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 28, all in Township 94 North, Range 25 West. The date of surveying is placed as April 17th of the year of platting.

From an early newspaper account of Kanawha the following facts are taken: The first business concerns of Kanawha were C. S. Farman & Sons, general store and hardware, which concern sold its first goods May 3, 1899; H. L. Jenkins, lumber; J. M. Johnson & Company, wagons and buggies; G. M. Bradbury, livery; N. M. Lindahl, blacksmith; Hamilton & Griggs, farm machinery and wagons; Hollar of Humboldt, livery; E. S. Benedict & Son, general store; Max Sigel, clothing; A. A. Moore, lumber; Al Cleaves, hotel; Richardson & Kaufman of Belmond, grains; Felthouse Brothers, elevator; West Lake Creamery Company's skimming station; Ole Mason, furniture; J. S. Gorton from Mikesville had a general stock of goods; T. C. Perisho, postmaster; Yeoman lodge with thirty members; George Call and Marsh Stevens, real estate. The first name given to the town was Luzon, but the postoffice department objected to this, owing to its similarity to Luverne, etc. It was then changed to Kanawha. The Britt Tribune facetiously remarked that there were "at present three patches of gum weeds, a bunch of lath, a last year's prairie chicken's nest, and 3000 prospects on the site, with lumber 'acoming'."

In 1902 the town of Kanawha incorporated, filing a petition for the same on September 24th. This petition was signed by the following citizens: G. M. Dempsey, F. M. Hanson, O. W. Phelps, P. L. Brown, J. S. Gorton, John L. Brown, Henry Afriea, J. A. Hamilton, G. W. Mason, S. H. Dixon, B. C. Ellsworth, F. H. Shackleford, G. M. Patrick, E. Frank Newell, Robert Lucas, G. P. and P. W. Hollingsworth S. S. Nelson, C. H. Turner, F. A. Newman, S. Salveson, R. T. Bray, T. C. Perisho, John W. Jenson, William H. Baker, J. S. Magor, E. L. Morphew, M. R. Dixon, H. H. Wallis, James Pierce, J. D. Welch, H. E. Hanson, C. W. Hanson, G. M. Churchouse, J. A. Green, John Huyck, Jr., J. T. Coulter, E. L. Madden, J. D. Gift, and T. L. Auld. An election was held March 17, 1902, upon the proposition to incorporate the town, after all necessary legal proceedings had been accomplished, and the majority of votes were polled in favor of incorporating.

The First National Bank of Kanawha was organized and incorporated in 1900. The present officers of this institution are: J. E. Wichman, president; C. C. Lucas, vice president; F. L. Bush, cashier;

F. N. Knudsen, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; the surplus and undivided profits about \$20,000; and the deposits amount to about \$250,000.

The Farmers State Bank of Kanawha was incorporated March 11, 1908, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The first officers were: G. W. Mason, president; J. Vitermarkt, vice president; A. L. Severin, cashier. A. J. Cole, W. D. Schroeder, J. U. Johnson, John Berg and Emory Sanford also signed the articles of incorporation. The present officers of the bank are: Neil Hanson, president; W. D. Schroeder, vice president; A. L. Severin, cashier; and George T. Anderson, assistant cashier. The capital stock remains the same as at the start; the surplus and undivided profits amount to about \$15,000; and the deposits average \$175,000.

Kanawha is well supplied with public utilities, having a satisfactory waterworks and electric light system. The manufacturing features of the town comprise two creameries—the Kanawha Coöperative Creamery and the Kanawha Mutual Creamery. A large amount of butter and kindred products are manufactured here each year and shipped to eastern markets. The town has a population of about 400 people, according to the United States census of 1910.

### KLEMME

The town of Klemme, comprising a population of near 350 souls, located in Ell Township, on the Rock Island Railroad, was surveyed and platted in 1889. The plat was filed for record on October 18th of that year. The land upon which the town was located was the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 95 North, Range 23 West. The land was owned by Harmon J. and Effie M. Klemme, and of course the new town was named after this family. C. S. Hall was the surveyor.

Settlement of the new town of Klemme was at first slow, as is the case with many of the smaller towns. Schafer and Dow started a store first in 1889. However, by the year 1898 the population had reached a sufficient number to warrant the incorporation of the community. Accordingly a petition praying for the incorporation of the town was circulated among the citizens and signed by the following: S. B. Day, F. M. Hanson, Frank Gruetzmacher, Henry Terhufen, John L. Harr, George S. Gates, W. W. Lawrence, George Kluckhohn, George Ell, Chris Law, George Gruetzmacher, H. W. Gruetzmacher, Charles Gruetzmacher, N. L. Palmer, G. A. Griswold, F. J. Mundt, H. E. Pitke, H. W. Schafer, W. R. Bloom, E. P. Dow, A. B. Schafer,

E. R. Schafer and J. J. Suckow, Jr. On September 28, 1898, the judge of the district court ordered that J. L. Harr, S. B. Day, H. W. Gruetzmacher, Frank Gruetzmacher, W. R. Bloom be appointed commissioners for an election to be held November 15th of the same year upon the question of incorporating Klemme. The vote was in favor of the move and after all legal matters had been attended to the town was duly declared an incorporated community.

The first bank in Klemme was incorporated in 1892 as the State Savings Bank, the same name as the present. The capital stock was \$10,000 and the following men signed the articles as interested in the organization of the institution: Fred Arnold, C. H. Wiegman, William Shattuck, W. R. Bloom, C. W. Knapp, J. E. Wichman, Isaac Sweigard, J. M. Elder, J. J. Upton, A. C. Ripley and M. A. Fell. This bank is now known as the First National Bank and is officered by the following named gentlemen: C. H. Wiegman, president; August Lan, vice president; F. A. Arnold, cashier; C. F. Bier, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; the surplus and undivided profits \$8,000; and the deposits amount to about \$225,000.

The present State Savings Bank of Klemme was incorporated in 1904 and the articles filed at the county seat on February 4th of the same year. The capital stock first named was \$15,000, the same as the present. The first officers were: W. R. Bloom, president; William Schafer and D. D. Ross, vice presidents; and H. A. Sweigard, cashier. The articles were also signed by Isaac Sweigard, M. T. Love, J. E. Johnson, William Katter, J. F. Hartfelder, August Kalter. The president of the institution at the present is the same as at the start; the vice president is D. D. Ross; the cashier, P. M. Griesemer; and the assistant cashier, F. J. Wenck. There is a surplus of \$25,000 carried by the bank, which includes the undivided profits, and the deposits amount to about \$250,000.

### GOODELL

The town of Goodell, located on the Rock Island Railroad in Avery Township, has a population of about 250 people. The official plat of this village was filed according to law on December 16, 1884. The plat stated that the village was to occupy the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 3, Township 94, Range 23 West. The land in question was owned by the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Falls & Northwestern Land and Lot Company, of which corporation S. S. Dows was president and James B. Close secretary. LeRoy Grant surveyed the town, marking the streets and laying off the lots.

The State Savings Bank of Goodell was incorporated and articles

filed November 14, 1892, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The following named men signed the articles: A. C. Ripley, J. J. Upton, A. J. Walters, L. M. Walters, J. M. Elder, M. A. Fell, M. R. Chambers, J. E. Wichman, Isaac Sweigard, William Shattuck, John Brisco, C. M. Church, M. L. Wiles, E. J. Baumann, A. D. White, G. W. Elder, M. C. Elder, Thomas Cashman, C. S. Farman, S. S. Matson, William Burgess and A. McDowell. The present officers of the State Savings Bank of Goodell are: G. W. Butts, president; T. R. Burgess, vice president; John Suurballe, cashier; C. A. Schmalle, assistant cashier. The capital stock is yet \$10,000; the surplus and undivided profits about \$12,000; and the deposits \$100,000.

### HAYFIELD

The plat of the town of Hayfield was filed April 10, 1891. The land named embraced the northeast quarter of Section 32, Township 97, Range 24 West. The village was surveyed in December, 1890, by request of Andrew Larson. Olaf Halverson, Thomas Paulson and A. Larson were assistants to F. N. Pitkin, surveyor. The town has since grown until it has a population of approximately 200 people, and is an energetic trading point for the surrounding country.

The Bank of Hayfield was started in 1899. It is a branch of the First National Bank of Garner, with C. H. Lackore, cashier, in charge.

### MILLER

The plat of the village of Miller, a town of 150 people, was filed with the county auditor October 21, 1895. W. L. Gordon, the surveyor, and E. C. Miller were the owners of this land, which was described in the plat as being a portion of the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 30 and a portion of the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 97, Range 23 West.

The Bank of Miller was established in 1899. P. H. Larson is the president of this institution and F. L. Miller is the cashier. The capital stock is \$60,000.

### CRYSTAL LAKE

There are two plats of Crystal Lake on file in the county auditor's office, one for the village of Crystal Lake and the other for the town of Crystal Lake. The former comprised the northwest fractional quarter of Section 15, Township 97, Range 25 West, and the latter



CRYSTAL LAKE SAVINGS BANK



embraced the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 16, Township 97, Range 23 West. A. C. Ripley owned the land in the village plat and F. N. Pitkin was the surveyor. The survey of the town plat was made by H. T. Ambrose at the request of H. P. Lawler, David and M. F. Magner on the 5th, 6th and 7th of October, 1898.

The petition for the incorporation of Crystal Lake was filed April 19, 1899. Judge Kelley of the district court appointed H. P. Lawler, L. E. Bowker, M. F. Magner, H. H. Home and J. H. Benson as commissioners for the election. The vote being favorable for the proposition, Crystal Lake was, on May 16, 1899, ordered to be incorporated.

The Crystal Lake Savings Bank was incorporated December 16, 1905, with a capital stock of \$10,000. G. S. Gilbertson was the president; N. E. Isaaes, vice president; L. M. Biekal, cashier; and E. S. Ellsworth and R. A. Bickal among the directors. Chris. Gillstrap is now the president of the institution and F. A. Gabrielson the vice president; the capital stock is the same, the surplus is \$2,000 and the deposits amount to about \$70,000.

The Farmers National Bank was established in 1910. H. R. Kluver is the president; Nels Matson the vice president; J. E. Hansen, cashier; and H. P. Stahr, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$3,200; and deposits \$60,000.

There was an institution in Crystal Lake known as the First State Bank, which was incorporated August 22, 1898, with the following as signers of the articles filed: Isaae N. Perry, E. Huntington, Josiah Little, W. B. Vaughan, J. O. Osmundson, F. N. Vaughan, E. C. Haga, J. F. Thompson and T. Jacobs.

The Crystal Lake State Bank was an institution incorporated February 17, 1902, with a capital stock of \$25,000. G. S. Gilbertson was the president; C. J. Thompson, vice president; A. Feakins, cashier; and O. A. Olson, E. C. Abbey and J. E. Wichman were among the directors.

## WODEN

The town of Woden, located on the Rock Island Railroad, in Birmingham Township, had 162 people living within its borders in 1910, according to the government census. The plat of the village was filed December 20, 1898. Thomas A. Way was the owner of the land, which was designated as the southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 97 North, Range 26 West. F. N. Pitkin surveyed the town site.

Woden was legally incorporated in the year 1904. The petition for incorporation was filed February 6, 1904, and was signed by the

following citizens of the town: H. E. Baack, Fred Baumgartner, V. L. Requartt, M. Quinn, George Logan, J. H. Bode, August Swanson, J. L. Bushman, G. E. Baack, A. Christensen, B. A. Pannkuk, B. H. Darkson, J. O. Lewis, C. L. Cunningham, N. D. Ray, O. K. Kramer, W. Nicholson, D. O. Logan, C. O. Lewis, Hugh Cline, H. W. Schmitt, P. T. Christian, A. O. Thompson, D. L. Hall, C. E. Lawyer, L. C. Peterson, H. R. Peitke, H. E. Gingery, E. W. Hempstead, J. Keil. The election for city officers was held and J. O. Lewis chosen the first mayor.

The Bank of Woden was established in the year 1898. The officers of the institution at the present time are as follows: John H. Bode, president; A. W. Lewis, cashier. The capital stock is \$25,000; the surplus is \$4,000, which includes undivided profits; and the deposits average \$150,000.

The State Savings Bank of Woden was incorporated May 6, 1912, when the articles were filed. They were signed by: A. C. Ripley, president; F. M. Hanson, vice president; J. J. Cosgrove, cashier; and Thomas Quinn, C. A. Missman, F. E. Kettwick, William Orthel, Thomas Ormsby and T. W. Neise. The present officers of the bank are: Thomas Ormsby, president; W. C. Burleson, vice president; H. O. Swingen, cashier; and H. F. Kammeier, assistant cashier. The capital stock is now \$15,000; the surplus and undivided profits, \$3,000; and the deposits average \$80,000.

### STILSON

The town of Stilson, in Boone Township, was platted in the year 1893. The plat was filed June 14th and named the land within the town as being the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 23, Township 95 North, Range 26 West. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad owned the land. It was surveyed by F. N. Pitkin.

### HUTCHINS

The plat of the small town of Hutchins was filed January 13, 1893. The owners of the land were J. N. and L. G. Inman and it was surveyed by C. F. Vincent on October 29th and 30th, 1891. It included all of the part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 96, Range 26 West, south of the right of way of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. It is located in Orthel Township.

## DUNCAN

Duncan is a small station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, located in Garfield Township. The plat of this village was filed February 28, 1900, and designated the village site as being the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 29, Township 96, Range 24. The survey was begun April 17th and finished on the 19th, in 1897, by F. N. Pitkin, at the request of Frank Urich, Sr. John Wurm and Ed Chischilles assisted with the work.

## OTHER TOWNS

The town of Concord was platted in 1868 and the plat filed for record July 18th of that year. The site was located on the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31, Township 96 North, Range 23 West. James Crow surveyed the land. The town was later incorporated with Garner, during the noted county seat fight with Britt, an account of which may be read in the chapter on County Seat History. The first postoffice in Concord Township was established at Concord, then called Hancock Center, in 1867, with James M. Elder as postmaster. The town never had much business of its own, all of this being done in the adjacent town of Garner.

The pioneer postoffice of Hancock County was established at the village of Amsterdam, at Upper Grove, in Avery Township. This village is now largely a thing of the past. Benoni Haskins was the first postmaster here. The village was surveyed in August, 1858, by G. A. McKay, acting for the proprietors—Thomas Magill and Robert L. Irwin. The village was located on the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 29, Township 94 North, Range 23 West, and the completed plat was filed for record April 9, 1859. Irwin had a small portable saw-mill, which was used to saw up the lumber for building shacks in the new village. Great dreams were indulged in by the few inhabitants, who saw in their small community the nucleus of a great Western metropolis. The history of the attempt to obtain for Amsterdam the county seat has been narrated; shortly after the failure of this scheme R. L. Irwin, the father of the town, left this part of the country, never to return.

Edward Rogers opened a store here in 1859 or 1860, but very shortly suspended business owing to the lack of monetary reward. In 1868 A. D. Hiams embarked upon a mercantile venture. Sylvester Stockwell shortly afterward came here from Ohio with a stock of goods and the two stores were combined. After passing through many hands,

with varying fortunes, it was purchased by J. B. Kern and the whole outfit moved to Belmond, Wright County. In 1876 George Rogers built a store building and placed therein a stock of goods. Thomas Elder and O. M. Morley succeeded in this latter business after a time. The first blacksmith was Charles Robbins, 1861.

There once existed a village named Ellington, where a postoffice was established in 1859, with Charles C. Doolittle as postmaster. The postoffice has long been abandoned and the village disappeared, except a small cluster of houses.

## CHAPTER VI

### MILITARY RECORD

WAR TIMES IN HANCOCK COUNTY—ROSTER OF SOLDIERS FROM HANCOCK COUNTY—SKETCH OF THE SECOND IOWA CAVALRY—SKETCH OF THE THIRTY-SECOND IOWA INFANTRY.

Although small, the part played by Hancock County in the War of the Rebellion is a source of pride and satisfaction. Hancock County, when the first rumors of war were heard, became a unit in support of the North. If there were any dissenting voices, they were speedily silenced. The settlers favored the suppression of the South and her iniquitous slavery. The stirring times following Mexican Territory acquisition, the Fugitive Slave Law, the Missouri Compromise, the struggle in Congress, the Lincoln-Douglas debates and Lincoln's election to the Presidency were felt in the distant country here in Iowa. News traveled slowly and was much garbled by the time it reached the settlers' ears, but all those who could prepared to answer the call of the country to war.

A special session of the county board of supervisors was held on the 18th of August, 1862, in response to the request of the governor of the state, that inducements, in the way of bounties, be held out to volunteers; and that provision be made for their families. In accordance, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, by the board of supervisors of Hancock County, that each person enlisting in the volunteer force, of this state, as a volunteer of this county, be allowed out of the treasury of the county the sum of \$100; and the wife of each person so volunteering the sum of \$1 per week, and to each child under fifteen years of age fifty cents a week, to be paid to the woman and children while said volunteer continues in the service of the United States. The warrants to be issued immediately upon their being sworn into the service of the state.

The first warrant under this order was drawn to William Church and was for eight dollars.

Very little official business pertaining to the war was transacted by the board until the September session, 1864, when the following was adopted:

Resolved, that there be appropriated out of the special fund levied by the board, the sum of \$500 to each man who may be drafted from Hancock County into the service of the United States, to fill the quota of the said county, under the call of the President of the United States issued in July, 1864, for 500,000 men; and that whenever said men are accepted as such soldiers, the clerk is hereby authorized and instructed to issue said warrants to said men.

When the first call for volunteers came Hancock County had a total population of 179 persons—this was in 1861. Forty-four votes were cast at the election preceding the opening of hostilities and at the election after the close of the war just seventy-six votes were cast. Yet, out of this small number of men of military age, almost twenty-five were found in the ranks of the Union, a percentage unsurpassed in many Iowa counties.

## ROSTER

Most of the volunteers from Hancock County went to Belmond, Webster City, Fort Dodge and other larger points to enlist and of course were credited to the counties where they entered the service. A careful search of the Adjutant-General's report justifies the assertion that the following roster contains the names of all the men who entered the war from Hancock County:

### SECOND CAVALRY

#### *Company I*

Cornelius Baker.	Thomas Wheelock.	Harrison Wheelock.
Jacob Waltz.	Joseph Gilpin.	Samuel Gilpin.

#### *Company L*

John S. Pritchard.	Joshua Gilman.	Stephen Ward.
M. S. Gilman.	Alfred Ward.	David Spencer.
R. R. White.	Francis Colburn.	

### ELEVENTH INFANTRY

Lewis Barth, unassigned.

### THIRTY-SECOND INFANTRY

#### *Company A*

Cephas Church.

*Company B*

Capt. H. N. Brockway.	John A. Curran.	George R. Lanning.
John Christie, Jr.	Thomas Magill, Jr.	Edward Thorp.
Douglas Magill.	Martin B. Parker.	C. Rosecrans.
Cyrus Church.	A. C. Long.	

*Company F*

Chandler W. Scott.	Simeon B. Wells.
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## TWELFTH U. S. REGULAR INFANTRY

*Company C*

J. H. Beadle.	B. F. Denslow.	Alexander Decoyne.
Lorenzo Colburn.	G. A. Stiles.	

## THIRTEENTH U. S. REGULAR INFANTRY

*Company H*

B. H. Haskins.	J. M. Haskins.
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## UNKNOWN

James Lackore.	Mr. Langley.	Martin Parker.
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## SKETCH OF SECOND CAVALRY

The Second Cavalry was made up of volunteers secured from the counties of Winnebago, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Linn, Jones, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette and Mitchell. In the latter part of the summer of 1861 all the companies of the regiment proceeded to Davenport, where they were formally entered into the United States service early in the month of September. The aggregate strength of the regiment, when fully organized was about 1050. Governor Kirkwood offered the rank of colonel of the regiment to Capt. W. L. Elliott, of the Third United States Cavalry, and he accepted, with permission of the War Department. "He was a strict disciplinarian," said Sergeant Pierce, in his history of the regiment, "every inch a soldier; and to his untiring efforts as our instructor in the science of war, are we in great measure indebted for whatever honor we afterwards won as a regiment." Edward Hatch, who had been captain of Company A, was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. He afterwards became a brevet major-general and one of the best cavalry officers in the service. The

majors were: W. P. Hepburn, Datus E. Coon and Hiram W. Love; the first a lawyer and politician, who rose one rank; the second an editor, who became a general officer; the third a man of business, who was compelled by ill health to leave the service before promotion.

The regiment remained near Davenport, perfecting itself in the use of the saber, until December 7th, when orders were given to proceed to Benton Barracks, Missouri. Here the troops found things very different from their comfortable camp at Davenport; they were crowded into close quarters, sickness of various kinds crept in among the men, and before the regiment left this unhealthy locality it lost about sixty men by death. The regiment remained at Benton Barracks about two months, and as many as were not prostrated by disease were drilled in the school of the mounted trooper.

February 17th the regiment moved by steamer down the river to Bird's Point, in the country in the rear of which the notorious rebel, Jeff Thompson, was creating trouble. Major Love with his battalion marched in pursuit of him, but though Colonel Elliott soon moved to reinforce the major, Thompson was not caught, though his command was dispersed by other troops sent out for that purpose. Major Love's battalion, among other captures, took possession of a newspaper office at Charleston, and issued one number of the *Independent*, the work thereon, both editorial and mechanical, being done by men of the command.

But they had not joined the army to engage in the newspaper business. Returning to Bird's Point near the end of the month, the regiment made preparation for the march on New Madrid, of which indeed the movement against Thompson was a preparatory reconnaissance. The march of the cavalry from the time it left Bird's Point was very difficult. It drove the enemy scouts and light bodies of cavalry, moving all the while over a country almost impracticable, fording streams and swimming swamps scarcely penetrable. On one occasion the men marched for nearly half a day through water up their horses' girths. Meanwhile, General Pope had located before New Madrid, where the regiment joined him on the 12th of March, 1862, in time to participate in the attack and bombardment of that place. From the time of the capture of the city to the 6th of April the regiment was continually occupied in guarding trains, in scouting and on picket duty. On the fall of Island No. 10, with its immense material, the grand trophy of engineering skill of the whole war, the regiment crossed the Mississippi, and its advance, under Lieut. Gustave Schmitzer, made them the first troops to enter the island. This officer, with eight men and a guide, on nearing the rebel works, discovered that they were evacuated by the enemy, although many stragglers were to be seen on every side. The

advance dashed among these, and supposing the entire army to be upon them, they surrendered to the number of eighty-six before Colonel Elliott came up. The regiment captured about two hundred prisoners and was justly entitled to the credit of being the first to enter Island No. 10. It pursued the retreating rebels toward Tiptonville, beating the swampy woods for prisoners, and returned to camp at New Madrid after an absence of five days. The regiment accompanied the expedition down the river, but the attack of Fort Pillow was abandoned and the regiment landed at Hamburg, Tennessee, on the 23d of April and at once took position on the left of General Halleck's Army, then moved on Corinth by gradual approaches.

General Pope chafed not a little under the bit of these slow approaches. Frequent scouting expeditions were made by infantry and raids by the cavalry. The position of the Army of the Mississippi too, on the left of our lines, whence the enemies' communications by the Memphis & Charleston Railroad were threatened, called for constant vigilance and no little activity on the part of General Pope. Wherefore, from soon after the time the Second Iowa Cavalry, an active regiment, joined in what is called the siege of Corinth, until the evacuation, more than a month afterwards, it performed services of great value, and engaged in skirmishes which were only not battles because fought so near the field of Shiloh.

On the 8th of May General Pope made a reconnaissance in force to the town of Farmington, at that time considerably in advance of the main lines of the Union Army. He drove the rebels from the town and took possession thereof, but in the evening retired with his main force, leaving only a picket in the place. In the operations of this day the Second Cavalry lost two men killed and six wounded.

On the next day the severe skirmish, which has been called the battle of Farmington, took place. General Paine, commanding a force of some half dozen regiments, remained after the reconnaissance of the 8th and in advance of General Pope's camp and beyond a creek hard by. The rebels, for the purpose of capturing the advance guard of the army of the Mississippi, moved from behind their works in heavy force, on the morning of the 9th. Price making a considerable detour to the right to get in the rear of Paine, and Van Dorn moving for direct attack. Happily Price moved too far to the right to accomplish the object, or Van Dorn delivered his attack too soon, so that Paine after several hours of hard fighting was able to make good his retreat to the main camp. But it is next to certain that he would have been cut off had it not been for the invaluable services of the Second Cavalry. A little after ten o'clock Lieut.-Col. Hatch, commanding the regiment, received an order from Colonel Elliott, com-

manding the brigade, to hasten to the assistance of Paine. In five minutes the regiment was mounted and galloping to the aid of their comrades beyond the creek. Coming upon the field Paine was discovered in retreat before an overwhelming force of rebels—several thousand infantry and twenty-four pieces of artillery. The Union forces could retreat only by a single line across the creek, where there was but the merest apology for a bridge. Paine was in imminent danger of capture. The rebels were preparing to charge and could they gain a certain eminence lying between the two forces, with their artillery, they would command the bridge and render passage impossible. To prevent the rebels from gaining this coveted eminence the Second Cavalry was ordered to form for a charge. Drawing their sabers, the men instantly took position and were soon sweeping over the hill in a mad but resistless charge. Protected somewhat by the cloud of dust which the horses raised, the regiment dashed right on the rebel artillery and actually drove the gunners from their pieces. But a large army of infantry was in support and the regiment was repulsed. Paine, however, had time to effect a crossing of the creek, and when the Second regained the position the battle was ended.

It saved the day. The charge only occupied a few minutes' time, but in that short period, fifty of the regiment had been killed and wounded, and as many mere unhorsed by the fire of the enemy. It was a charge of the utmost audacity, the like of which was never made, except by troops of the most daring courage.

By the 20th the army was entrenched behind Corinth. The enemy's communications on the east were destroyed, another movement of our forces on the right would destroy them on the west and the destruction of the railroad, south, would leave Beauregard completely isolated at Corinth, before a mighty army impatient for battle. Colonel Elliott, commanding the Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, which consisted of the Second Iowa and the Second Michigan, was selected to perform this service. This expedition proved to be successful. The Second lost two men killed and two wounded, with several captured.

Company E, as a part of Pope's bodyguard, was one of the first to enter Corinth. After a period of scouting duty, the Second was relieved from duty at the front and moved to camp near Farmington. In the latter part of June the command was again called upon for active duty and on July 1st was fighting at the battle of Booneville. After this the regiment went into camp for about two months. The regiment, after the battle of Iuka, where it did arduous service, participated in the campaign of Corinth. As a part of the "eye" of the army it did splendid work.

The Second was next ordered to join General Grant in the central

Mississippi campaign. They arrived at Grand Junction on November 4th. Throughout the campaigns of this year and the next the Second Cavalry performed meritorious service, continually engaged in work peculiar to its branch of the army. The regiment left winter quarters at La Grange on March 10, 1863, and then participated in the noted movement known as the Grierson raid. This raid became known as one of the most brilliant cavalry exploits of the war. After this the regiment returned to La Grange. Immediately after Colonel Hatch took command of a brigade just formed, consisting of his own regiment, the Sixth Iowa Infantry, mounted, and a regiment of West Tennessee Cavalry, and four pieces of artillery. Until August 23d the command participated in raids, etc., and then went to Memphis, where they rested until November 1st. The regiment then marched to the relief of Colliersville, threatened by Chahmer's troopers. Here they fought a sanguinary battle with the rebels.

On March 28, 1864, the regiment was mustered into the service as a veteran organization, most of the members having enlisted after the expiration of their terms. A furlough was then granted to the men. In the summer of 1864 the regiment took part in Gen. A. J. Smith's campaign into central Mississippi, participating in the battle of Tupelo. The campaign into middle Tennessee against Forrest next occupied the attention of the regiment. From then on until the close of the war the regiment did valiant duty in the South.

In the autumn of 1865 the regiment was mustered out of the service of the United States.

#### SKECH OF THIRTY-SECOND IOWA INFANTRY

The companies forming the Thirty-Second Iowa Infantry were recruited in Hancock and adjoining counties, during the latter part of the summer and early fall of 1862. They rendezvoused at Camp Franklin, near Dubuque. Here, on October 6th, they were sworn into the service of the United States for three years. John Scott of Story County was colonel of the regiment. In this camp the regiment remained until the middle of the following month, suffering in the meantime by an epidemic of measles. From the 14th to the 18th of November the regiment embarked by detachments for St. Louis and went into quarters there at Benton Barracks. Here it remained a few days, then under orders six companies under Colonel Scott proceeded to New Madrid, Missouri, and the remaining four companies under Major Eberhart went down the river to Cape Girardeau. This separation continued until the spring of 1864. The first part of this sketch concerns the portion of the regiment under Eberhart.

They went to Cape Girardeau and spent the winter on garrison

and provost duty, participating in the fight with Marmaduke's rebels at that place in the spring. By the middle of July the regiment started on the march which resulted in the capture of Little Rock, Arkansas. Then came the expedition up White River. The fleet of captured boats upon which the troops returned was attacked by rebels, but the federals repulsed with ease every onslaught. As guard to the cavalry trains the four companies of the Thirty-Second performed excellently, but suffered more from hardships and sickness than in engagements with the enemy. Severe criticism was forthcoming due to the orders compelling the men to keep up with the fast cavalry troops. The men returned to Little Rock in October, 1863, and there stayed until the following January, then started for Memphis, then to Vicksburg. It reached that city on the 9th and remained until the 27th, when it marched to Black River to await the army on its return from the interior.

Meanwhile General Scott established his headquarters at New Madrid and assumed command of the post. On December 28, 1862, Scott destroyed the public property and evacuated New Madrid and proceeded to Fort Pillow. Here he remained six months on garrison duty. Then came a seven months' camp at Columbus, Ky. On July 10th Union City, Tenn., was captured by the rebels and the command hastened to that place, but arrived too late to find the enemy. They returned to their base and were soon again split up into fractions. Two companies alone remained at the regimental headquarters; these were B and I. In the month of January, 1864, the six companies were again brought together and soon embarked for Vicksburg, where they were assigned to the Second Brigade. Also, at Vicksburg, the six companies were again joined with the four others which were separated from them several years previously.

Shortly after the regiment as a whole was ordered to the Department of the Gulf and there accompanied the disastrous Red River expedition. On this expedition, it is said, the Thirty-Second suffered more than any other regiment. On April 7th the regiment engaged in the battle of Pleasant Hill and stood the brunt of the fight. The brigade commander reported as follows on this: "Of Col. John Scott, 32d Iowa, it is sufficient to say that he showed himself worthy to command the 32d Iowa Infantry—a regiment, which, after having been entirely surrounded and cut off from the rest of the command, with nearly one-half of its number killed or wounded, among them many of the best and prominent officers, forced its way through the enemy's lines, and was again in line, ready and anxious to meet the foe, in less than thirty minutes." The regiment lost 210 men in killed, wounded and prisoners.

The regiment reached Memphis on June 10th and then engaged in the Tupelo campaign, then the Oxford expedition. The next campaign was that into Missouri in pursuit of Price. In the battle of Nashville the 32d played a prominent part and won great praise. Early in 1865 the regiment went to Eastport, Miss. Its next and last campaign was that of Mobile. It remained in Alabama some time after the fall of Mobile and was mustered out at Clinton, Iowa, August 24, 1865, and was soon afterwards disbanded.

## CHAPTER VII

### HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN HANCOCK COUNTY

EARLY SCHOOLS—CONSOLIDATION—REPORT OF FIRST COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS—STATISTICS OF 1860—REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR 1883—ROSTER OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS—SCHOOL STATISTICS OF THE PRESENT TIME.

Although the advance of schools and educational facilities in Hancock County has not been so rapid as in certain other counties of the state of Iowa, there has been substantial progress since the days of the log cabin school and, though the county may be said to be still feeling her way among the most recent school improvements, it is safe to predict that not many years shall have passed before educational advantages in Hancock are the equal of any in the state.

Consolidation of schools, with the advantage of equal opportunities for the country pupil with those of the city pupil, larger and better equipped buildings, had just been established in Hayfield school district in June, 1915. This district, was the only one in the county to adopt the system up to 1917, and constructed a handsome building which was dedicated December 22, 1916; prior to this time and after the consolidation, the old buildings in the country were moved into town, also the town hall of Hayfield was utilized. The Corwith district was consolidated also in the early part of 1917.

#### FIRST SCHOOLS

The first school in Hancock County was taught in Avery Township in the year 1857, in the spring. C. D. Pritchard was the teacher, following this in conjunction with his limited activities as a lawyer. The school was held in a residence which stood on Section 29. The next school in this township was taught the following year by James M. Elder. By 1883 there were five schoolhouses in the township, all frame buildings costing about \$500 each. Just when this school district was organized is difficult to determine, owing to the absence of any definite records. It is known, however, that the first officers were: L. S. Hazen, John Christie and A. D. Hines, directors; M. L. Fuller, secretary.

The first school in Bingham Township was held in the house of Mr.

Bingham in 1872. The wife, Mrs. Clarissa Bingham, was the teacher. During the same year a small frame school building was erected at a cost of \$500. The building was sixteen by twenty-two feet in dimensions. The Lake George school house, a frame edifice, sixteen by twenty-two, was erected in 1881 at a cost of \$500. Katie Quinn was the first teacher in this school. The Shattuck schoolhouse was also built during this year—1881. This was a smaller building than any of the others and, of course, cost less money. This school was formerly taught at the house of Frank Aiken, starting in 1877, and Mary Aiken was the first teacher. The Barber schoolhouse, erected near the residence of C. H. Barber in 1883, was at the time more pretentious than any previously built. It cost \$700. Katie Quinn was the first teacher here.

The first school in Boone Township was held at the house of J. B. Hill in 1879 and Mary Clark was the first teacher. This school was kept up and held session when convenient until the summer of 1881, when a schoolhouse was erected on Section 5, the same costing about \$400. May Halgeson was the first to preside over the school here, which school became known as the Dallman school. What was called the Nissen schoolhouse was built in 1883 on Section 11. It was eighteen by thirty feet in size and cost \$438. Prior to this time, however, a school was taught at the residence of Peter Madison, of which Andrew Murray was the teacher.

The first schoolhouse within the limits of the territory now within Britt Township was constructed on Section 25 in 1875 and was called the McMullen schoolhouse. The first school here was held during the same year and was taught by Dida Draper. This building was later moved to Section 26 and called the Dickinson schoolhouse. Lucy Sloper was an early teacher after the removal. In 1881 another schoolhouse was erected on the land of J. H. Burdick, on Section 15, and the first teacher was J. Clark.

The first school in the town of Britt was held in the kitchen of the hotel during the fall and winter of 1876-7. Belle Swartwood was the first teacher. During the following spring and summer Mary Hess taught the school, which was then held in a store building. A schoolhouse costing \$2,000 was erected during the summer of 1878 and is still in use in conjunction with the addition. The first term in this building was taught in the fall of that year by W. S. Groom. In May, 1880, this was made a graded school with W. J. Massingham as principal and teacher. In the fall and winter terms he was assisted by Mary Stubbins. C. C. Turner was the principal during the summer of 1882 and Thomas Lowe the fall and winter following. William Houston, with Calla Ross and Della Whitney as assistants, came next.

A newspaper account of the history of education in Britt states that Blanche Bloom taught the first school in Britt, followed by Miss Crapser and Miss Hess. These terms of school were taught in a "lean to" of the Benson House, which stood where the Britt Tribune office is now located. Dide Draper is said to have taught a term near town about this time, also "Doc" Groom. "He says he was not after Miss Draper, that is in point of time, but was ahead of her at least a year. He remembers that he taught the first school in the present school building, because the carpenters were putting up the purlin plates when he called the children to prayers, and that the A class was reciting when they began to raise the rafters, and that he adjourned the class to a neighboring gopher knoll for further instruction." This was the old building later owned by Henry Steffens and sometimes used as a wagon shop.

The first to teach school in Concord Township was a man named Smith, who located in the village of Concord in the early part of 1870. The first election in the township for school directors took place in March, 1870, and resulted in the choice of J. M. Elder, Ira Bailey and Manser Dyer.

The first schoolhouse in Crystal Township was erected in 1867 at Crystal Lake, was twenty-two by twenty-eight feet in dimensions, and cost about \$400. Martha Church first taught here. The second schoolhouse was built in 1870, near the site of the later Lake Edward school. William Overbaugh was first teacher. In the spring of 1883 this old building was demolished and a new building put up in its place. Bertha Pitkin was the first teacher in the new building. Buffalo Grove schoolhouse was built in 1871, and Marcus Williams first taught in it.

The first school in Ellington Township was held in a dwelling which stood on Section 22, but was destroyed by the cyclone of 1881. Hannah Johnson was the first teacher here. The school was started either in 1858 or 1859.

The first school board of Erin Township was chosen at the March election, 1879, and consisted of Mary E. Donahoe, John O'Rourke and J. V. Hill. J. J. Donahoe was appointed secretary and B. McMullen, treasurer. The first school was held in the Devenpeck schoolhouse during the fall of 1873 and Betsy Swartwood was the first teacher.

This building which stood on a portion of Section 3 was the first school in the township. At the time of its erection the present townships of Erin and Britt were all one school district. In the fall of 1879 this building was removed to the southeast corner of Section 8. Andrew Murray was the first teacher in the new location. The next school was known as the McMullen schoolhouse, and was located on Section 11, on land belonging to B. McMullen. In 1877 a coal house was purchased and moved from the Daggett district, in Orthel Town-



GRADE SCHOOL BUILDING, GARNER



ship, and out of this was built the schoolhouse. The first teacher was Nancy Clark, who taught the year of its erection. In the spring of 1882 this building was moved to Section 23. Ella Lawton was the first teacher after this, followed by Della Whitney. The Porter schoolhouse was erected in September, 1882, and was opened that fall with Mrs. Mary Porter as teacher. The building cost \$1,000. The Glidden schoolhouse was built during the winter of 1882 and the first teacher was Emily Lincoln.

The first schoolhouse in Madison Township was erected in 1858 and was known as the Barker school. Here the first class was taught by Hannah Johnson. The house was a frame structure, eighteen by thirty feet, and cost about \$600. The Skinner or Hartletz school was built in 1868 on Section 15. The Maben school was erected in 1869 on Section 13. L. B. Phelps was the first teacher and C. B. Maben the second. The Steiff or Lackore school was erected in 1869 on Section 3. A Mr. Walker was the first pedagogue here. The Greis schoolhouse was built in 1879 on Section 6. Sophia Connors was the first teacher.

The first school in Magor Township was taught in 1879 by Alice Crane in a building on Section 28. She had three scholars, her cousins, namely: R. D., Prudie and Katie Crane. The first school board consisted of James Crane, William Brummond, Harrison Bailey, Alvah Packard and Thomas Magor. The Brummond schoolhouse was built in 1881 and Miss Harding had the honor of being the first teacher. The Gray school dates from 1882, taught then by Miss Smith. The Whiteman school was built in 1882 and the first teacher was Mary Blood.

The first school in the village of Corwith was erected by a stock company in the summer of 1881. This was a temporary building and was rented to the district until the township could build one more suitable for the purpose. The first term was taught by Mary Maher. The high school building was erected in the northern part of the town in the fall of 1883. It was a two-story frame structure and cost over \$2,000.

In Orthel Township the Daggett schoolhouse was built in the spring of 1873, and the cornerstone laid sometime in April, with formal ceremonies by Mr. Daggett in the presence of the entire district—namely—five persons. The building, which was twenty feet square, was finished in June and school was held therein that summer, with Mary L. Leggett as teacher.

The first school in Twin Lake Township was taught by Mrs. E. C. Packard during the year 1867. This school was taught at the house of the teacher on Section 6. The first schoolhouse erected in the town-

ship was the one known as the Bailey school. This was built during the summer of 1868 and opened for the fall and winter term with Delia Yarrington as the first teacher. The next was the Gartin schoolhouse, which was built in 1873, and of which Hattie Morse was the first teacher. The Harmon schoolhouse was opened in the autumn of 1882 with Mary Granfield as teacher. This building was the schoolhouse built in the Gartin district in 1873, but when that district constructed a new building in 1882 the old one was moved. The Butterfield schoolhouse was originally built on land now a part of Avery Township, but in 1870 was removed to the northeast quarter of Section 24, Twin Lake Township, and in 1880 again moved to the northwest quarter of Section 13. Ella Cushman taught here during the summer of 1880, and was followed by Richard Ruggles and May Holtz. Other early teachers were: Alma Butte, Ashley Boughton and Laura Christie.

From the time of the organization of the county, the number of school districts has gradually increased and educational facilities have become more and more efficient. The report of the first county superintendent of schools, Grove R. Maben, filed November 27, 1858, is as follows:

Number of districts in county.....	2
Number of scholars between 5 and 21 years of age..	47
Number of schools taught the past year.....	0
Number of volumes in school libraries .....	0
Amount of money expended .....	0
Number of male scholars in Avery district .....	17
Number of female scholars in Avery district .....	12
Number of male scholars in Madison district .....	8
Number of female scholars in Madison district .....	10

In the fall of 1858 the two district townships had voted a tax toward raising a fund with which to erect suitable buildings. In addition to this the state apportionment was received early in 1859 and amounted to the sum of \$371.18. This was divided by the county judge, who was, ex-officio, the head of government, as follows: to Avery district the sum of \$228.95; to Madison \$142.11.

In 1860 there were in the county of Hancock, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, thirty-one males and thirty-three females. In 1862 five districts were reported to have been organized, having the following number of legal school age in each: Avery, twenty-eight; Madison, twelve; Amsterdam, fifteen; Ellington, two sub-districts, thirty-one; making a total of eighty-six scholars. In 1872 there were in the county 527 people of legal school age, divided as

follows: Avery, district township, twenty-nine; Amsterdam, seventy-nine; Conecord, one hundred and five; Crystal, thirty-seven; Ellington, one hundred and ninety-seven; Madison, eighty.

The report of the superintendent of schools for 1883 was as follows:

Number of district townships in county.....	16
Number of independent districts.....	0
Number of sub-districts.....	14
Total number of districts.....	30
Number of ungraded schools in the county.....	67
Number of rooms in graded schools.....	6
Average term of school in the county.....	7
Number of male teachers.....	21
Number of female teachers.....	99
Total number of teachers.....	120
Total number of children enrolled.....	1078
Total average attendance.....	743.9
Average cost of tuition per month, per pupil.....	\$3.80
Number of school houses in the county.....	65
Frame .....	63
Brick .....	2
Total value of houses .....	\$27,225
Total value of apparatus.....	\$4,063
Total number of certificates issued in 1883.....	139
First Grade .....	48
Second Grade .....	51
Third Grade .....	40
Number of applicants rejected.....	10
Average age of female applicants.....	21
Average age of male applicants.....	31
Number of volumes in library.....	150

This table may be compared with the 1916 report of the county superintendent to be found at the close of this chapter.

The office of county superintendent of schools was created by an act of the Assembly during the spring of 1858, and was to supersede the old office of school fund commissioner. The first to fill this responsible position in Hancock County was Grove R. Maben, whose term of office commenced with his election in July, 1858, at the time of the organization of the county. At this same time the district townships, which had concurrent boundaries with the civil townships of Madison and Avery, were organized. In the following fall Madison voted a tax of five mills and Avery a tax of ten mills on the dollar for the purpose of building schoolhouses. Following Mr. Maben in the office of county superintendent of schools have been: Charles Gillespie, Charles Church, James M. Elder; the latter failed to qualify and James

Crow was appointed by the board of supervisors, James Elder was again elected in October, 1862, and qualified; M. L. Fuller, C. C. Way, C. Boughton, Lambert B. Bailey, A. R. Barnes, B. F. Scott, A. R. Barnes, M. L. Fuller, A. C. Ripley, Samuel Sturgeon, C. H. Grove, S. L. Thompson, C. F. Schell, A. M. Deyoe, J. R. Baggs.

#### 1916 REPORT

There are at present seven Independent City, Town and Village school divisions and two consolidated districts. The two latter—Corwith and Hayfield—were set off since the 1916 report, so will be considered in the summary under the first classification.

Britt has fourteen teachers; 260 male and 292 female persons between the ages of five and twenty-one; an enrollment of 457; and one \$28,000 school building. A new school building is to be erected in Britt during the summer of 1917, which will relieve the congestion at the old building, part of which is the original school, the addition having been constructed within the last fifteen years.

Corwith has eight teachers; 157 persons of school age; an enrollment of 187; and one \$16,000 school building.

Crystal Lake has two teachers; 63 persons of school age; an enrollment of 46 and one school building.

Garner employs fourteen teachers; has 476 persons of school age; an enrollment of 365; and has two school buildings worth \$55,000. A new high school building has just been built in the city of Garner.

Goodell has six teachers; 123 persons between five and twenty-one years of age; an enrollment of 99; and one school building.

Hayfield has four teachers; 162 persons of school age; an enrollment of 136; and two buildings.

Kanawha has six teachers; 146 of school age; enrollment of 165; and one building.

Klemmie has four teachers; 135 of school age; an enrollment of 115; and one building.

Woden has two teachers; 63 of school age; enrollment of 50; and one building.

In the independent city, town and village districts there are altogether 60 teachers, seven of whom are men. There are 1877 persons of ages from five to twenty-one—914 males and 963 females. The enrollment of all is 1620. There are eleven buildings, representing a total value of \$139,800.

There are sixteen school townships in Hancock County, namely: Amsterdam, Avery, Bingham, Boone, Britt, Concord, Crystal, Ell, Ellington, Erin, Garfield, German, Madison, Magor, Orthel and Twin Lakes.

In Amsterdam school township there are eight teachers; 204 of school age; 166 enrolled; and eight buildings valued at \$8,100.

In Avery there are seven teachers; 169 of school age; 141 enrolled; and seven buildings worth \$1,850.

In Bingham there are eight teachers; 189 of school age; 139 enrolled; and eight buildings with a value of \$2,800.

In Boone there are eight teachers; 171 of school age; 132 enrolled; eight buildings valued at \$1,300.

In Britt school township there are six teachers; 161 of school age; 124 enrolled; and six buildings worth \$5,900.

In Concord there are six teachers; 123 of school age; 62 enrolled; and seven buildings costing \$3,700.

In Crystal there are seven teachers; 230 of school age; 143 enrolled; and seven buildings valued at \$5,500.

In Ell there are eight teachers; 185 persons of school age; 148 enrolled; and eight buildings worth \$5,800.

In Ellington there are nine teachers; 280 of school age; 191 enrolled and nine buildings worth \$7,900.

In Erin there are eight teachers; 164 of school age; 137 enrolled and eight buildings worth \$3,800.

In Garfield there are six teachers; 141 of school age; 97 enrolled; and seven buildings valued at \$2,600.

In German there are nine teachers; 171 of school age; 130 enrolled; and nine buildings worth \$5,250.

In Madison there are seven teachers; 134 of school age; 129 enrolled; and seven buildings with a total value of \$4,250.

In Magor there are eight teachers; 210 of school age; 149 enrolled; and eight buildings with a combined value of \$6,450.

In Orthel there are nine teachers; 192 persons of school age; 158 enrolled; and nine buildings worth \$5,400.

In Twin Lakes there are eight teachers; 154 of school age; 141 enrolled; and eight buildings valued at \$4,600.

This makes a total for all the school townships of one hundred and twenty-two teachers, 5 of them men; 2902 persons of ages from five to twenty-one—1490 male and 1412 female; an enrollment of 2187; and 124 buildings with a total value of \$75,200.

For the whole county the statistics are: 182 teachers, 12 of whom are men; 4779 persons of school age—2404 males and 2375 females; an enrollment of 3807; 135 school buildings with a total value of \$215,000.

Besides the above there are 24 pupils living in Hancock County who attend the Meservay consolidated district school in Cerro Gordo County.

## CHAPTER VIII

### RELIGION IN HANCOCK COUNTY

ORIGIN OF DENOMINATIONS—HISTORY OF METHODISM—CATHOLICISM—CONGREGATIONAL—GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH—LUTHERANISM—UNITED PRESBYTERIANISM—UNITED BRETHREN—BAPTIST CHURCHES IN GARNER—CHURCHES IN BRITT—OTHER CHURCHES IN THE COUNTY.

The first settlers in Hancock County brought religion with them, and although no organized societies or specific denominations were evident until after a few years, meetings were held in the various homes and prayer said by some member of the community. Before speaking of the beginning of religious services in Hancock County, some space must be given to the origin of the various denominations which are said to have been prominent here. Methodism may first claim our attention.

The name Methodism was given to the religious movement inaugurated in England by John Wesley. The name has been given subsequently to all the churches which have sprung from that movement, of whatever nationality they may have been. Other churches, although not bearing the name of Methodism specifically, may be safely identified with that denomination. The denomination dates from the year 1739. The religion of the Methodists was introduced into Ireland in 1747 by the organization of a society in Dublin by Thomas Williams. English troopers carried Methodism to Jersey in 1779 or 1790, after which the mainland of France was invaded. C. G. Miller, a youth from Württemberg, went to London in 1805, was converted, and in 1830 returned to South Germany, where he preached the doctrine of that church. In Italy the Methodists first took hold in 1852, when the French sent M. Rostan into the Piedmont Valley.

The first Methodist Society in the New World was formed from German refugees to Ireland, who had been expelled from the Palatinate by Louis XIV. Philip Embury and Barbara Heck were converted in Ireland and upon landing in New York in 1760 began preaching their faith. Thomas Webb, a captain in the army, also preached in New York and elsewhere about the year 1766. Robert Strawbridge, also a native of Erin, began the work in Maryland, assisted by Robert Williams, the apostle of Virginia. In 1769 Wesley dispatched Richard

Broadman and Joseph Pilmoor, and two years later Francis Asbury and Richard Wright, to help the cause in America.

In 1773 the first conference was held, with ten ministers and 1160 members. The Revolutionary War came at this juncture, but instead of bringing disaster to the Methodists, really tended to increase their numbers. At the end of hostilities there were 80 preachers and 15,000 members. Wesley endeavored to get a bishop in England to ordain one of his preachers in America. He was not successful in this, so concluded he had the necessary authority himself. Accordingly, on September 1, 1784, he ordained Whatecoat and Vasey as deacons, on the next day the elders, and Coke, superintendent. He instructed them to organize the American societies into a church. This was done at the Christmas Conference in Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, December 24, 1784, to January 2d following. Here Asbury was ordained deacon, elder and superintendent, the societies taking the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Since then the growth has been great. In 1914 there were 62,416 churches of all branches; 41,925 ministers and 7,328,829 communicants.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, began in 1844, when the church was divided into two branches. The question of how to abolish slavery separated the members. The north churches believed in the excommunication of the states which favored slavery and the south maintained that such action would destroy all the good work which the denomination had accomplished in America. The General Conference of 1844 authorized the division.

The Methodist Protestant Church was started in 1828 and organized under that title in 1830. It traces its origin back to the Evangelical Reformation begun by John and Charles Wesley.

To trace the origin of the Catholic Church would be far too stupendous a task for a work of this scope. However, it may be said by way of introduction that the Roman Catholic Church acknowledges the Pope or Bishop of Rome as its leader and adheres to this center of control as essential to membership.

The first account of Catholicism in America is that of the presence of priests in Greenland in the Tenth Century. The diocese of Garder was established in 1112 A. D. The first authentic history opens with 1494, when twelve priests accompanied Columbus to the New World. They were subject to the Spanish See of Seville until 1512, when the first American Episcopal See of San Domingo was created. In 1522 a see was established at Santiago, Cuba, and in 1530 one in Mexico. From these latter named sees were evangelized the Indians of the northeastern and southwestern territories of the present United States. The Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits

established missions through here at this time, also about this same time French missionaries labored with the savages of the St. Lawrence River, Maine, northern New York and on the Mississippi River. In 1634 Jesuit fathers were established in the originally Roman Catholic colony of Maryland and after 1681 Roman Catholics were in conjunction with Penn and the Quakers in Pennsylvania. Until 1784 they were under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Vicar Apostolic of London and "their religious needs were attended to by such missionaries as could be induced to cross the ocean."

The American Revolution brought a change for the better. The various disorders of the Old World resulted in a large immigration, the greater per cent of which was Roman Catholic, which in turn was largely composed of Irishmen. In 1790 the See of Baltimore was created, John Carroll being made the first bishop. There were then about 30,000 Catholics in the thirteen colonies. By 1820 the number had reached 250,000; in 1840 about 1,000,000; in 1870, 5,000,000; and now the Catholics in the United States number easily 16,000,000.

The church in the United States is divided into provinces and dioceses. Each province is presided over by an archbishop and this forms an archdiocese: besides there are 85 separate dioceses, one vicariate and one prefecture apostolic (Alaska). The dioceses are divided into parishes and missions.

Congregationalism designates a church organization of which the Congregational Church is only a part. The term may include the Baptists, River and Plymouth Brethren, Christians, Disciples of Christ, Unitarians, Hebrew Synagogues, Adventists and American Lutherans. The word has other applications covering a broad area.

Congregationalism, as we now know it, had its origin in discussions subsequent to the English Reformation. The earliest advocates formed the radical side of the English Puritan Protestants. It is said that notwithstanding the fact that a church Congregational in organization existed in London in 1567, Congregationalism itself was first in the writings of Robert Browne, of Cambridge. He organized a Congregational Church at Norwich in 1580-1. He was compelled to seek safety in Holland, whence he issued tracts advising a separation from the Church of England. This gave the name of Separatists to the early members of the denomination. In 1587 preaching was conducted by Henry Barrowe, an attorney of London, and John Greenwood, another Cambridge man. They had gathered a large following by their eloquence and consequently came under the eye of the government. The organization of a Congregational Church in London in 1592 was closely followed by the hanging of Barrowe, Greenwood and

John Penry in the next year. Most of the members were exiled to Amsterdam, Holland, where they were led by Francis Johnson and Henry Ainsworth. At Scrooby and Gainesborough in England other churches modeled after the Congregational were founded; both eventually sought refuge in Holland. The former church with Pastor Robinson and Elder Brewster went to Leyden in 1609, thence a small part emigrated to New England in 1620, founding Plymouth in December of that year. Here they lived and struggled under Brewster, William Bradford, Edward Winslow and Miles Standish. More came in 1628, having been driven out of England by Charles I. They united with the former party in 1629 and afterward Massachusetts became very strongly Congregational. By 1645 there were 53 churches; in 1816 there were 1020 churches and about 100,000 members. In 1905 there were 5931 churches and 700,000 members.

The founders of the German Reformed Church came to America from the Rhine provinces in Germany and from the German cantons of Switzerland. The greater part of this immigration occurred between the years of 1710 and 1770. These people established themselves in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina and Georgia. The first congregation was organized at Germantown, Virginia, in 1714, with Rev. John Henry Haeger as the pastor. Gradually most of the churches of this denomination in the colonies became absorbed by the other churches, the Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Lutherans. The Reformed Church, however, became denominational in Pennsylvania. The first pastor here was Samuel Guldin. The organizer and pastor of the three original churches was John Philip Boehn. Before 1740 there were twenty-four Reformed congregations in Pennsylvania and the leading ministers of the period were Boehn, Templeman, Weiss, Rieger and Goetschius. In 1747 the congregations united in a coetus (synod) under Rev. Michael Schlatter, and were under the jurisdiction of the Holland synods. Thus the German Reformed Church began in America.

Lutheranism arose from the Reformation in Germany. The church is the mother of Protestantism. This was in the Sixteenth Century. The Lutheran Church and its branches now has in the United States alone some 2,112,494 members.

Rasmus Jensen, a Lutheran pastor, came to America as chaplain of a Danish expedition in 1619, preaching at the winter quarters at Hudson Bay, where he died February 20, 1620. Dutch Lutherans settled on Manhattan Island in 1623, but did not have a regular minister until the English came in 1664. In 1626 Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, prepared to undertake the introduction of the gospel in America through colonization. He died unfortunately in 1632, but his

prime minister established colonies on the Delaware in 1638. A pastor, Reorus Torkillus, arrived in 1639 and was the first Lutheran pastor in the territory of the United States. He held services in Fort Christina and the first Lutheran Church in North America was there. A block house was soon built. In 1643 there arrived Governor Printz and Rev. John Campanino, who built a church at Tinicum, nine miles southwest of Philadelphia. In 1684 the first English Lutheran services were held in Germantown and Philadelphia by Heinrich B. Koster.

The first German Lutheran church in Pennsylvania was at Falkner's Swamp, established there in 1703. The Germans, exiles from the Palatinate, began to arrive during the Eighteenth Century and settled in New York and Pennsylvania. Rev. John Caspar Stoever traveled among them in 1728 and preached. Rev. Henry Melchior Mühlenberg arrived in Philadelphia in 1742 and brought the Germans together, so that by the middle of the century Pennsylvania contained 30,000 Lutherans, four-fifths German and one-fifth Swedish.

The United Presbyterian Church of North America was organized in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1858, by a union of the associate and association of reformed churches. By one line it was descended from the Covenanters of Scotland, by the other from the men whose ideas later resulted in the formation of the Free Church of Scotland. The basis of union was the Westminster Standards, together with a Testimony. The start of Presbyterianism has been credited to Calvin and the first of the denomination in Scotland in the Sixteenth Century. The church in America was founded by Scottish, Irish, French, German and Dutch reformed immigrants in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, the Carolinas and some parts of New England. There was a Presbyterian colony on Massachusetts Bay in 1625. In 1629 a church was fully organized under Rev. Samuel Skelton.

The United Brethren is an evangelical church which arose in Bohemia and Moravia among the followers of John Huss and was originally known as the Bohemian Brethren. The church secured the episcopacy from the Austrian Waldenses in 1467. Moravian immigrants first came to America in 1735, landing in Georgia, five years later going to Pennsylvania, where they founded the towns of Bethlehem and Nazareth. The United Brethren in Christ Church, which more concerns America, arose among the Germans of Pennsylvania, under the preaching of Philip W. Otterbein, an ordained minister of the German Reformed Church, and Martin Boehm, a preacher among the Mennonites. The first formal conference was held in Baltimore in 1789.

The name of Baptist was first given in 1644 to certain congregations of English Separatists, who had just restored the practice of

immersion. Some of the early colonists in America held Baptist views. The first church was established at Providence, R. I., in March, 1639, by Roger Williams, a former minister of the Church of England, but a Puritan.

#### CHURCHES IN GARNER

The German Methodist Episcopal Society was first organized in Ell Township as a mission church. The first meeting was held at the house of Sebastian Ell and the Rev. William F. Koerner preached the sermon. About this time Rev. Koerner, who was a circuit rider, organized the first class. Among the members of this first class were: Sebastian Ell and wife, Mary, Christina, Katie, Philip and J. C. Ell, Philip Goetz and wife, making ten members in all. Sebastian Ell was chosen class leader, a position he held for several years. Reverend Koerner was the pastor of this church, which met at the houses of the members for about two years. In October, 1874, the mission was changed to a circuit and Rev. Auguste Biebighauser was appointed to take charge. The society built their first church edifice in 1881, at a cost of \$2,000. Revs. E. W. Henke, Gottlieb Hoefner and C. F. Famen were the other early pastors.

The regular Methodist Episcopal Society is said to have originated about 1871 and the Reverend Williams was the first pastor. Prior to this Rev. A. S. R. Groom, a Methodist clergyman from Forest City, came here at the invitation of J. M. Elder and preached to the people. The first class was formed by Rev. W. W. Robinson in 1872.

The German Reformed Church of Garner had its start in 1884. On March 12th of that year incorporation papers were filed, which were signed by the following: F. Greimann, V. Jorten, E. Ukmeyer and William Ketter. Second papers were later filed, signed by Paul Mayer, Jacob Mayer, Carl Bahr and J. O. Rumsel.

The First German Evangelical Lutheran Church was incorporated October 29, 1894, by John Baack, Christ Reibe and Karl Wurdelmann.

The First Congregational Church here was incorporated April 11, 1892. The signers of the articles were W. C. Wells, L. B. Bailey, Carl Hess and others.

St. Boniface Church, Catholic, of Garner, was incorporated January 9, 1912, by James J. Keane, Roger Ryan, Rev. Vincent Opava, George H. Lickteig and Louis Schmidt. J. J. Keane was the archbishop of Dubuque and Roger Ryan was vicar general.

#### BRITT CHURCHES

The Congregational Church Society was organized on the 26th of December, 1879. Prior to this, however, Rev. R. R. Wood had been

preaching for some six months in the town. Among the early members of this society were: E. E. Adams and wife, Smith A. Healy, George Alexander, Georgiana Way and William H. Breese and wife. The first services were held in the schoolhouse and continued there until the summer of 1880, when a \$1,500 building was erected. Rev. B. St. John was the second pastor of the Congregational Church in Britt, coming to the charge in July, 1883, succeeding Reverend Wood. The church was incorporated February 7, 1882, by E. E. Adams, Mrs. J. E. Adams, S. A. Healy, George H. Alexander, Georgiana Way, William H. Breese and Elizabeth Breese.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Britt was organized in November, 1878, through the efforts of Rev. Z. C. Bradshaw. Among the original members were: K. K. Liquin, William Wright, C. Graves, Mrs. R. G. Hill, Mrs. J. H. Burdick, William Pritchard, Andrew Anderson, G. Devenpeck and C. C. Way. The first board of trustees was composed of K. K. Liquin, William Pritchard, Andrew Anderson, G. Devenpeck and C. C. Way. The church was incorporated May 26, 1881. Revs. J. Jeffrey, W. H. Drake, E. Turner and H. J. Huston were other early pastors. The first church building was erected in 1881 at a cost of \$1,500.

The Scandinavian Evangelical Free Church in Britt was incorporated November 4, 1891, by C. O. Krogh, John Brostrom and Simon Hanson. Brostrom, H. H. Lee and Andrew Lilje were the first trustees.

The Immanuel Church of the Iowa Conference of the Evangelical Association was incorporated in Britt on June 11, 1896, by Nick Burgardt, H. F. W. Steffen and Fred Schoeneman.

The First Swedish Independent Baptist Church of Britt was incorporated February 7, 1898. The church was organized at the house of John Edgren on January 3rd previous. The first trustees were: David Anderson, Swan Anderson and Jacob Swanson. Others who signed the articles of incorporation were: Ben Olson, Nels Nelson and Ben P. Anderson. The last three named were deacons of the church.

The Evangelische Luthrische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde Ungeaenderter Augsburger Confession was incorporated April 30, 1903. The incorporation papers were signed by Herman Heyde, Johan Grunewald, Friedrich Ulm, George Range, William Range and Robert Dressler.

The Trinity Episcopal Mission of Britt was incorporated February 20, 1902, by John A. Carton, Thomas Daylor and A. J. Robinson.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Britt had its beginning about twelve years ago, but was not incorporated until December 30, 1911. Archbishop J. J. Keane, Vicar General Roger Ryan, Rev. W. J. Baxter,

James Mackin and Hugh Mullin signed the articles which made the church a corporate body.

The Scandinavian Independent Baptist Church of Britt was incorporated June 18, 1912, by A. M. Pearson, Andrew Larson, William Norstrom, A. E. Latt, Ben P. Anderson, C. G. Johnson, Olof Olson, Oskar J. Hansen, Ben Olson and Jacob Swanson.

#### OTHER CHURCHES IN THE COUNTY

The first services in the town of Corwith were held in the school-house, the meetings were conducted at intervals of two weeks. Rev. B. St. John, the Congregationalist minister of Britt, and Rev. Henry J. Huston, the Methodist pastor of the same place conducted the services. The First Baptist Church of Corwith was incorporated April 20, 1896, by L. J. Barber, Thomas Ogg, P. F. Black, Samuel Beisell and C. R. Wood.

Ellington Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was incorporated October 18, 1902, by Nils Olson, Halvor Fosse and Iver Johnson.

The Hutchins Congregational Church was incorporated November 14, 1900, by C. E. Buziek and wife, Charles L. Tutt, Mrs. Tutt and Mrs. Mary Higdon.

The United Brethren Church of Goodell incorporated in the year 1889 according to law, and filed the articles at the county seat on August 13th. O. Oleson, Nels Pearson, J. W. Griggs, D. F. Hunt and George W. Elder were the incorporators. The Goodell Methodist Episcopal Church incorporated March 5, 1895; the articles were signed by John Briseo, C. R. Trumbull and Mrs. Etta Briseo.

Prairie Center Methodist Episcopal Church incorporated August 29, 1898. The Ellington Prairie Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church incorporated June 9, 1886. The signers of the articles were Andrew Larson, Godfrey Carlson and Sewell Simenson.

The First Congregational Church of Woden was started in the '90s and incorporated on February 15, 1899, by C. A. Pfund, T. P. Newell and J. O. Davis.

The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Twin Lakes was incorporated May 23, 1893.

The Magor Township Lutheran Church was incorporated February 5, 1899, by Peter Knudsen, Aug Kirchgatter and Aug Sillman.

On January 20, 1891, were filed the incorporation papers of the St. John's Lutheran Church of Concord, signed by Fred Bohnke, Fred Pieggel and S. W. Thoda.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Woden was incorporated December 23, 1913, by Henry Baack, G. G. Saathoff, O. R. Kramer, J. A. Kramer, Fred Gerdts and Ed Reiter.

Stilson United Brethren Church filed articles of incorporation at the county seat on August 24, 1896, which were signed by Hurley Jeffords, J. H. Nall and Thomas Everett.

The Christian Reformed Church of Bingham Township was incorporated June 6, 1896, by H. O. Peters, F. Van Hoorn, Everett Breese, Henry Willemssen, Kampo V. Dyk, H. Noordmann, M. Weinenga, Henry Koerner, H. Abbas, John Van Hewelen, W. Weinenga, Peter Greenfield, Ubbe Hindens, H. Limberg.

The Kanawha Christian Reformed Church was incorporated March 23, 1900, by B. Abbas and wife, H. Asfink and wife, G. Feerksen and wife, D. Abbas and wife, H. Peters and wife, A. W. Raben and wife, P. Lyppons and wife, M. Boomgarden and wife, George B. Abbas and wife, F. Abbas and wife, Klaas Gansveld and wife and Miss Lizzie Feerksen.

The Evangelische Lutherische Friedens Gemeinde at Amsterdam was incorporated August 13, 1900, by John Heddens, John Eenhins, George Meyer, Claus Gatena, William D. Schroeder, Ludwig Steffen, John Alke, William Alke, Paul Knack, Feitz Knack, Gerhard Bergmann and George Prull.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Crystal Lake was incorporated April 8, 1899, by the following trustees: D. W. Bowker, Nels Matson, W. C. Rose, C. W. Hawley, and J. P. Johnson.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Kanawha incorporated December 15, 1899. The articles as filed in the county court house were signed by G. M. Patrick, William J. Birkhofer, A. F. Bouton and Simeon Ross.

The German Methodist Episcopal Church of Klemme was incorporated February 15, 1892, by Henry Gruetzmacher, C. W. Knapp, Henry Duesenberg, E. H. Lenz and Julius Bettin.

The German Township Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated by Henry Griewe, Louis Sampson, William Beier, Sr., H. J. Stille and August Schaper.

The Hayfield German Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated on July 7, 1897, by Jacob Nonweiler, W. F. Mertz, Fred Erdman, Thomas R. Blank and Henry Schuldt.

The German Reformed Church of Klemme was incorporated May 13, 1899, by H. J. Schuldt, Fred Bock, Julius Priebe, Jr., and William Baack.

The Sacred Heart Church of Woden, Catholic, was incorporated January 19, 1912, by Archbishop Keane, Vicar General Ryan, Reverend Baxter, Thomas Ormsby and M. J. Barrett. The society was organized some twelve years previously and a new church dedicated January 1, 1900.

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Goodell was incorporated February 28, 1912, by Archbishop Keane, M. F. Eardley, Frank Quigley and William Monaghan.

St. Weneelaus Catholic Church of Duncan was incorporated January 9, 1912, by Archbishop Keane, Vicar General Ryan, Reverend Opava, Mike Malek and Frank Kopacek.

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Corwith was incorporated January 13, 1912, by James J. Keave, Roger Ryan, W. J. Baxter, Thomas Beecher and Peter Hatterscheid.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Woden was incorporated November 23, 1914, by Norman Missman, E. W. Kellogg and J. L. Bushman.

## CHAPTER IX

### HANCOCK COUNTY JOURNALISM

ORIGIN OF NEWSPAPERS — FIRST PAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES — THE COUNTRY EDITOR — THE FIRST PAPER IN HANCOCK COUNTY — THE GARNER SIGNAL, THE OLDEST PAPER NOW PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTY — THE HANCOCK COUNTY DEMOCRAT — THE BRITT TRIBUNE — THE BRITT NEWS — OTHER COUNTY NEWSPAPERS AT CORWITH, GOODELL, KLEMME, KANAWHA AND WODEN, THE LATTER DEFUNCT.

#### ORIGIN OF NEWSPAPERS

The publication known as the newspaper was preceded many centuries by the manuscript publications of Rome—written on wax tablets with the stylus—which records were posted in conspicuous places to inform the people of the events happening and the political trend of the times. These were known as *Acta Diurna*, but their issue was very irregular and without sequence and often entirely suspended in times of scarcity of news.

But little advancement was made from this early prototype of the press until 1622, the date of the birth of the first publication worthy of the name of newspaper. For years prior to this time the mental appetite of medieval and modern Europe had subsisted upon periodical manuscript literature. In England the written news-letter, supplied only at such fabulous prices that only the rich could afford it, was for a long time, in vogue. The news pamphlet was the nearest approach to the newspaper that had obtained until 1622; when the first regular series of newspapers was born. In that year the *Weekly News* from *Italie* and *Germanie* made its salutatory to the London public. It was printed upon a mechanical contrivance, perfected by Nathaniel Butler, who might be termed the progenitor of the newspaper proper. This contrivance spoken of by contemporary writers by that name only, is supposed to have been the forerunner of the present intricate presses. The first attempt at a newspaper was crude and weak and no attention was paid to political events until 1641, when the parliamentary reports were inserted in the paper. Then the career of the newspaper as we know it may be said to have commenced. The first advertisement

occupied a place in the columns in 1648, and was in verse form, setting forth the virtues of the fashionable tailor of Belgravia.

The first daily morning newspaper was the London Courant, published in 1709, and which consisted of only one page of two columns, each about five paragraphs long, being made up from translations from foreign journals, many of them a month old. The press now made rapid strides and had so gained in popularity and prestige that before 1760 over 7,000,000 papers were sold annually in England alone.

#### FIRST PAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES

The first newspaper, as such, in the United States was the Boston Public Occurrences in 1690. It was a small quarto sheet with one blank page, and was afterward suppressed by the Massachusetts government. Then came the Boston News-Letter in 1704, first conducted by John Campbell, the postmaster. The Boston Gazette was established in 1719, then changed to the Massachusetts Gazette. This paper and the News-Letter were organs of the British rule until the evacuation of Boston. In 1721 James Franklin began the New England Courant, which suspended in 1727. Two years later, Benjamin Franklin, who had worked for James Franklin, established at Philadelphia the Pennsylvania Gazette, which he conducted as a weekly until 1765. Then it was merged with the North American. The Boston Evening Post ran from 1735 until 1775. The Massachusetts Spy began in 1770 and continued until 1848; the Philadelphia Advertiser was started in 1784; the New York Advertiser in 1785. The Evening Post of New York City was founded in 1801 and is still published.

#### THE COUNTRY EDITOR

The country newspaper editor in America, as well as the first newspapers, can be described at great length. The weekly newspaper—patent insides—chiefly concerns the population of Hancock County, for the county has yet to see a daily newspaper of lasting quality. It has, for some reason or other, always been customary to treat the small newspaper and its editor and proprietor in a half-humorous manner when writing of early journalism. A very interesting article upon this subject is quoted as follows from a Missouri paper, having first been copied in the Britt Tribune:

“The journalist lives in the larger cities; has an office in the thirteenth story of some trust building and gets his inspiration from his ancestors. He arises at 8, partakes of breakfast and gets to the office at 9. In the afternoon at 2 he lunches; dines at 5 and at 10 refreshes himself again.

"The newspaper man exists in the smaller town, offices in the press room, on the ground floor or in the basement, and wouldn't know an inspiration from a load of green wood. He doesn't retire in the evening, but goes to bed nights and gets up early. He may, or may not eat breakfast, gets to the office in time to sweep out, make the fires and goes to dinner at any old time. Sometimes he is called a country editor, sometimes a quill pusher, sometimes a liar. He never, or seldom attempts to put out anything but a weekly and frequently it is quite weak. It may be a folio, a quarto, a patent or a democratic, but all the same it costs \$1 per year, cash in advance, or produce, whenever you can get it.

"This man of destiny is a valuable acquisition to any community, but no two persons place the same construction upon his worth; this is merely a matter of taste or feeling, which depends upon what you want, or what you can get, from the scribe. Some want to be blowed up when they are born, some when they get married; some when they die and some when they run for office, but they all want us to blow. It's blow, blow, blow, from the cradle to the grave, and then some. You have heard the expression 'Live and Learn.' The newspaper man begins to learn when he goes into the business and ceases when he dies. He must know how to lead a prayer meeting, write up a baseball game, a dance, a wedding or death, and must have a vocabulary for the everyday affairs of life from a dog fight to a college commencement, know how to eat with a fork at a wedding feast and drink soda from a bottle at a fish fry.

"You get free passes into the circus, after running a half page two times, and occasionally a reserved seat free, after you get in. Then some subscriber across on the other side sees you and vows that he will never pay up to a man who is able to enjoy one of those luxuries, and right there is where you lose a dollar or two you would have never gotten anyway. You get passes on the railroad; then keep them until they are out of date waiting for spare time to take a ride. There is a big wedding pulled off; the invitations are printed in St. Louis; you get a list of presents thirteen inches long, two pieces of cake, one banana and a bunch of grapes, and then go off into a corner to enjoy yourself while the guests of honor are throwing rice at the happy couple as they take the train for Kalamazoo.

"Now as to ups and downs: whenever a paper from a country town goes into the postoffice it covers a multitude of sins by not saying anything about them. This is the only show some editors will ever have of getting into heaven. We have to do this or quit the business. You can't live on earth and print what some people call news. Quite frequently a short contributed article would send the editor straight

up. This reminds us that many an editor has saved his life by reading between the lines of contributions before accepting them just to fill up with, but occasionally some subscriber reads between the lines of what the scribe writes and then he has to hide out till the storm is over. Then again you many lose a friend who finds an 'o' upside down in a line of obituary poetry. Next week you try to make the correction, leave the dot off an 'i' and another subscriber is gone. One will quit, root and branch, when you ask for the dollar due you, another will go to Stew Creek and not finding his name in the paper, top of column, next to reading matter, off goes another name. The oldest daughter, a most lovely girl, Salla, graduates and you speak of her as Sallie and you are up again. There is a new arrival at Sam Jones', you forget whether it is a boy or a girl, but think it is a girl, and say so in your paper. The next week you meet the father of that fine boy and probably you are down again. By the way, when you don't know just what it is, always say boy. Experience has taught us that this is a safe rule. We do not attempt to explain, but it is true all the same. However, such things should not happen. An editor ought to know what will suit each individual or he ought to take each item before it is published and let the person whom it concerns censor it. An editor has plenty of time to do this, as all he has to do is to hunt news, clean rollers, write editorials, set type, clean his floor, pen short items, hustle advertising, press the papers, fold them and mail them, write wrappers, talk to visitors, distribute type, read proofs, correct mistakes, split wood, build the fires, hunt the scissors, dodge the bills, dun delinquents, take cussings and tell the subscribers he needs money. These are only a few of the things a newspaper man has to contend with and yet he should not make mistakes in his paper while attending to such minor details, at the same time living on oxtail soup, lettuce, prunes, sunshine, wind pudding and imagination for dessert."

The above description cannot be said to be applicable in every case at the present day. The introduction of the linotype and improved presses have greatly lessened the labor of newspaper-making and many of the methods which were in use not so many years ago would now be considered antique and crude. The average weekly newspaper in Hancock County is an attractive sheet, well balanced, of editorial quality and mechanical excellenee.

#### THE FIRST PAPER IN HANCOCK COUNTY

The first newspaper published in Hancock County was printed in a covered wagon which stood on the adjoining corners of Hancock, Winnebago, Cerro Gordo and Worth Counties. The object of printing it was

to publish the delinquent tax lists of the four counties and receive pay for the same. This issue was known as the Hancock County Sentinel and was in charge of C. C. Doolittle of Mason City, a man afterward prominent in political life in Hancock County. This first publication of a paper in Hancock occurred in the year 1860. D. E. Coon afterward had charge of the publication, which was located at Ellington, but after a few years, about three in fact, the paper suspended for want of support. The material was sold and went into the plant of the Winnebago County Summit.

In 1861 a five-column paper called the Independent was started at the village of Amsterdam by the firm of Brainard & Noyes. Like the Sentinel the printing of the tax list was the excuse for opening up business. The Independent continued precariously for a few months and then passed away.

In the spring of 1870 another journalistic venture was inaugurated at Concord, then the county seat. This was known as the Hancock County Autograph and was in charge of the firm of Moulton & Hamlin. It was an eight-column folio and was the best paper in the county until that time. The scarcity of subscribers and the difficulty of communication caused the demise of this sheet after a short life. The material was moved to Mason City and later became a part of the plant of the Mason City Express.

#### THE GARNER SIGNAL

The Garner Signal was established in the year 1871 as The Hancock Signal by George R. Lanning. This paper is still being published weekly at Garner, after a continued existence of almost a half century. It is the oldest paper now in the county and among the oldest in the northwest part of Iowa. This initial number was issued on the 12th of March and the paper was soon a recognized factor in the business interests of the neighborhood. Soon after the start of the business Mr. Lanning sold out the plant to Messrs. Haywood & Maben. W. C. Haywood owned the plant by himself a short time after C. B. Maben became interested with him, and for ten years carried on the publication with intermittent success. On June 1, 1883, he sold out to the firm of Bush & Elliott. Charles Elliott afterward left the firm and H. H. Bush associated himself with Mr. Knadler. This firm continued the paper successfully until 1904, when the whole plant was purchased by G. F. Kluckhohn, who is the present proprietor. The Signal has always been a republican sheet and has won an enviable reputation, not only by the quality of its news and editorials, but by adherence to newspaper ideals. It is a four to eight page paper, issued each week.

## HANCOCK COUNTY DEMOCRAT

The Hancock County Democrat was established in 1883. A history of the earlier years of this publication is difficult to obtain, but it is thought a man named Bloom instituted the paper. Later, in 1893, W. M. Brackett was editor and proprietor. In January, 1916, Raymond F. Schneider purchased the paper and is now editor and proprietor. The plant is well equipped with a new lineograph and job presses and has a circulation of 1,150. The Democrat is one of the most valuable news carriers in the county and is a well patronized advertising medium used by farmers as well as merchants.

The Independent was started at Garner by Sargent & Geddes in 1877. The first number was issued December 12th in five-column quarto style. Mr. Geddes soon disposed of his interest in the paper to John Christie, Jr., but he too sold out March 12, 1878, to Walter Elder. Then the firm was Sargent & Elder. After a year or so Sargent sold out and the firm name became Walter Elder & Company. In the spring of 1882 the paper was moved to Britt and there consolidated with the Tribune.

The Northwestern Advertiser was instituted by C. B. Maben in 1880 and the first number issued October 17th. The paper became noted for its freedom of speech while it lasted, but in the latter part of 1882 was sold to George E. Frost of Clear Lake and was suspended the same fall.

## BRITT TRIBUNE

This paper was founded in 1879 by E. E. Adams and the first number issued on the 19th of December that year. It was afterwards known as the Hancock County Tribune and then again changed to the Britt Tribune. This was a six-column quarto paper and continued to run in that shape until October 15, 1881, when it was consolidated with the Hancock County Independent, the name changed, and the publishing firm became that of Adams & Elder, the latter being Walter Elder, late proprietor of the Independent. This firm was short lived, being dissolved in February, 1882, Mr. Adams continuing in the business alone. Previous to this the size of the paper was changed to an eight-column folio. In August, 1882, it was further changed into a nine-column folio, which form it kept until January, 1883, when it returned to the eight-column size. On October 15, 1882, Mr. Adams purchased the subscription list of the Northwestern Iowa Advertiser. After a few years of existence the Tribune went into the hands of a mortgage holder. John E. Anderson owned an equity and Marder, Luse & Company held the first mortgage. Mr. Adams moved to Des Moines and

the paper went to F. M. Cooley & Son. About this time E. N. Bailey started the Hancock Republican, which ran a year, then Thomas Way and the Cooleys bought it and moved the plant to Corwith. For a time the Cooleys published the Tribune, then the newspaper went into the hands of the firm of Way & Barrett. In March, 1891, E. N. Bailey bought the plant and after owning half of it for two years sold out to James Coutts, who operated the paper for a year and a half, then sold back to Bailey. The latter has successfully conducted the paper since that time, with the exception of fourteen months, when George Welle-meyer had charge. The Tribune has won a statewide reputation, a reputation chiefly gained by its editorial quality. It is one of Iowa's most substantial papers and has followed a definite policy which has obtained a well-merited patronage. O. S. Bailey and G. D. Bailey, sons of E. N. Bailey, have charge of the business and mechanical departments respectively. The Tribune is issued weekly, is of eight pages, partly patent and partly home print.

#### BRITT NEWS

This paper had its start as the Weekly News under Mat Johnson. The first number was issued on August 8, 1894. In January, 1895, George P. Hardwick became associated with Johnson in the publication of the News and in the next month bought out Johnson's entire interest. The next owner of the sheet was C. A. Cooley, who kept the paper until July, 1900, when W. A. Simkins purchased the plant and paper. The News Publishing Company, a stock company, filed articles of incorporation on May 19, 1900, which were signed by Thomas A. Way, Charles A. Cooley, E. P. Healy, S. Way, J. M. Coutts and others. This stock company, however, was dissolved in the year 1903, Simkins becoming the sole owner. In 1913 Simkins sold his paper to L. G. Roberts, who had come to work upon the paper in September, 1900. L. G. Roberts continued the publication of the News alone until March, 1914, when he admitted his brother R. R. Roberts, into equal partnership. The name was changed from the Weekly News to the Britt News during the Cooley ownership. The News is now one of the most attractive publications of its kind in northern Iowa. In mechanical makeup and editorial quality it is considered by critics to be in the first division of weekly papers.

#### OTHER COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

The Corwith Hustler, one of the liveliest Republican papers in the county, was established in the year 1888. S. L. Thompson has been the editor of this paper for a number of years and has succeeded in making of it a sheet of excellent mechanical and editorial features.

A Corwith Newspaper Company was incorporated February 7, 1888, by F. P. Heskett, A. E. Harding, E. S. Stilson, J. T. Standring and J. S. Clark.

The Goodell Globe, also a Republican paper, was established in 1892. Hall & Kinney have been operating this paper until recently, when the management was taken over by F. C. Letch, a man well posted in newspaper affairs and with editorial ability.

The Klemme Times, Republican in policy, was started in the year 1895. M. M. Magner is the capable and efficient manager of this publication. It is a weekly and has a large circulation in the county. Allen C. Flint was a former owner of this paper.

The Kanawha Record was established at Kanawha in 1899. B. C. Ellsworth is the editor and proprietor of this paper. Like all the other papers in the county, with one exception, it is Republican in politics and exerts a wide influence in the territory which it covers.

The Woden Watchman, a Republican paper established in 1898, edited at one time by W. E. Sage and lastly by John Bode, has expired for want of monetary nourishment.

## CHAPTER X

### THE BENCH AND BAR

EARLY LAWYERS—THE PRESENT BAR—THE DISTRICT COURT—THE DISTRICT JUDGE—THE CIRCUIT COURT—COUNTY ATTORNEYS—THE COUNTY JUDGE—COURT CLERKS.

#### EARLY LAWYERS

The bar of Hancock County, although not so numerous as in some other counties of the state, has numbered among its members many men who have been an honor both to the county and to the profession. Of the history of law little can be said within a work of this scope; many and compendious volumes have been written upon the subject without exhausting it. Law itself, however, had its beginning in tribal customs, the shaping of the individual's course of action for the benefit and safety of the community. In that most archaic of countries—China, there were definitely propounded laws before Justinian wrote. American law, as understood at present, is largely based upon the Roman and English statutes, with lesser statutes compatible with the needs of each state, county and city.

The first lawyer in Hancock County was M. P. Rosecrans, so long known as the county judge. Mr. Rosecrans was a native of Ohio, but moved to Iowa when a young man, locating in Hardin County in 1855, engaging in farming pursuits. He was a man of excellent education and of considerable native ability and studious habits, and was one of the best newspaper writers the state produced. He was admitted to the bar while a resident of Hardin County and shortly afterwards, in the spring of 1858, removed to Hancock County, where, at the June election, 1858, he was elected to the most prominent local office then existent in the county—that of county judge. Judge Rosecrans left Hancock County in 1866 and located at Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County.

Others who have practiced law in the early days before the Hancock County bar and who have been residents were: Harvey N. Brockway, Charles D. Pritchard, James Crow, Byron F. Scott, William Kinsey, James Barclay, B. F. Westover, Bush & Bush, A. C. Ripley, W. E. Bradford, Joseph G. Strong, Taylor & Osborne, O. K. Hoyt and J. M. Elder.

H. N. Brockway, of the firm of Brockway & Elder, was born in St. Joseph County, Michigan, December 26, 1836. His parents Sylvester and Mercy (Stewart) Brockway, emigrated to Michigan about 1830, where they remained a few years, then moved to Indiana. Here H. N. grew to manhood, receiving a common school education. In 1855 he went to Wright County, Iowa, and in 1858 began to read law in the office of G. Berkley at Webster City, Iowa, being admitted to the bar at Concord, Hancock County, in 1860. In 1862 he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, entering as sergeant and being promoted to captain. He was married in 1865 to Sarah Mitchell of Franklin County, Ohio. In 1865 Mr. Brockway was elected treasurer of Hancock County and reelected in 1867. He resigned in 1868 and was elected judge of the circuit court in the same year. At the expiration of his term he engaged in partnership with J. M. Elder in the law.

C. D. Pritchard was a son of Philo A. and Eliza J. (Woodward) Pritchard and was born at Lockport, New York, August 9, 1830. In 1836 his parents moved to Michigan and here C. D. received an academic education and afterwards began the study of law. In the spring of 1857 he came to Hardin County and after a year or so came to Hancock County, where he was admitted to the bar in 1858, and afterward practiced his profession, also taught school occasionally. In 1860 he was elected clerk of the county courts and was later a member of the state legislature. He then became a department clerk in the interior department at Washington, D. C., but soon resigned and returned to Hancock County to practice his profession. In 1871 he removed to Alden, Iowa, and entered into partnership with his brother in the mercantile business.

James Crow was a native of Licking County, Ohio, and one of the early pioneers of Hancock County. Although admitted to the bar, he was a man of very limited education, and never became counsel in notable cases, contenting himself with small work before the justice's court. He afterwards removed to Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and engaged in the real estate and land business.

Byron F. Scott was admitted to practice at the bar in Hancock County at the June term of court, 1871. He afterwards left the county and disappeared.

William Kinsey came to Hancock County in the spring of 1870 and taught school during that summer and the succeeding year. In October, 1871, he was admitted as a member of the legal fraternity and in partnership with James Barclay, who had shortly before made his appearance, hung out their shingle. The business did not come to them, however, and the firm was soon dissolved. Kinsey went to Muscatine County and build up a large practice, but Barclay vanished.

An attorney named B. F. Westover came to Britt in August, 1882 and practiced for a short time, then disappeared.

A. C. Ripley came to Hancock County soon after his admittance to the bar in 1877. Ripley was a native of Ohio and received a splendid education in his youth. He was elected county superintendent of schools in Hancock in 1880. Mr. Ripley practiced in the county until 1907, then retired from active work and is now living at Long Beach, California.

William E. Bradford was born September 30, 1857 in Dyer County, Tennessee. In 1861 his parents removed to Marshall County, Iowa, and after a short residence there removed to Tama County, this state, where his father, Theodorie F. Bradford, was a prominent lawyer and at one time probate judge of that county. William remained there until 1877, when he went to Marshalltown, Iowa, and became engaged in teaching school, also studying law under H. E. J. Boardman. In 1879 he went to Hampton and was admitted to the bar in March, 1880. He practiced there under the direction of Kellam, King & Henley until July, 1880, at which time he located in Britt, where he became prominent as an active figure in the county seat troubles in the early 1900s.

Joseph G. Strong was born in Erie County, New York, October 2, 1843. He came to Johnson County, Iowa, after studying law in the East, in 1861. He enlisted from Iowa City in 1862, in the Twenty-Eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and became adjutant of the regiment. In the fall of 1865 he was admitted to the bar at Iowa City and became a partner of Judge W. E. Miller, of Iowa County. He located then in Tama County, after dissolving the partnership, and there remained for fifteen years. He came to Britt in 1880 and engaged in the practice of law, also newspaper editing.

Joseph Osborne, a native of Wisconsin, located in Britt in June, 1881, and organized the banking and law firm of Taylor & Osborne.

O. K. Hoyt came to Britt in November, 1880. Formerly he had been engaged in the practice of law at New Hampton, Chickasaw County. He remained here but ten months.

James M. Elder, although admitted to the bar at the first term of the circuit court, never practiced a great deal, but was an able man in the profession.

The first attorneys to locate in Garner were Bush & Bush, closely followed by H. N. Brockway and A. C. Ripley. Henry H. Bush came to Hancock County in 1870 from Illinois. For a period of fifteen years Mr. Bush was prominently identified with the legal practice in the county, practicing in partnership with J. E. Wichman from 1884 to 1891.

J. E. Wichman, the present representative of Hancock County in the 37th General Assembly, came to the county in 1879 and to Garner

in 1882. He was admitted to the bar in 1884. Mr. Wichman practiced with H. H. Bush until 1888, then alone until 1912, then in partnership with Q. C. Hastings, the present county attorney.

John A. Senneff was another of Hancock County's foremost lawyers, coming here in 1898, locating at Britt. Mr. Senneff is now practicing at Mason City, Iowa.

#### THE PRESENT BAR

The present members of the bar in Hancock County are: F. E. Blackstone, Garner; Frank Senneff, Britt; John Hammill, Britt; J. E. Wichman, Garner; W. H. Ramsay, Garner; C. R. Wood, Corwith; and Irving C. Hastings, Garner.

#### DISTRICT COURT

When Hancock County was organized it was placed in the then newly formed Eleventh Judicial District, of which John Porter was then judge. This was formed in conformity with the new state constitution, just adopted, and under which the office of prosecuting attorney for each county was abolished and a district attorney for a judicial district was elected.

#### THE DISTRICT JUDGE

The first term of this court ever held in Hancock County was convened on May 24, 1860, at Upper Grove, Hon. John Porter, judge of the Eleventh District, presiding. There were present besides the judge, Daniel D. Chase, special prosecuting attorney; Charles M. Church, sheriff, and C. D. Pritchard, clerk. The first business transacted by this court was the admission of C. D. Pritchard and H. N. Brockway to practice as lawyers. These men applied in person to the court and were admitted on recommendation of the examining committee.

The first case upon the docket which came up for adjudication was that of J. W. Woods vs. W. C. Gilpin. This was an action upon a promissory note, brought up on appeal from a justice's court. H. L. Hoffman and Daniel D. Chase appeared for the plaintiff and W. C. Stanberry for the defendant. The decision of the lower court was reversed and judgment given for the plaintiff. But few other cases came up before the court, most of them being either settled or continued by consent of the parties.

The second term of the district court was held in May, 1861, at the same place, there being present Hon. John Porter, judge; D. D. Chase,

prosecuting attorney; C. D. Pritchard, clerk; and Charles M. Church, sheriff. The first business transacted was the return of the venire of grand jurors, namely: Anson Avery, Jacob Ward, Richard Colburn, James C. Bonar, B. F. Denslow, Joseph Barth, Charles Lutz, George Stoskopf, F. M. Colburn, A. Baker, Douglas Magill, Malcolm Magill, Orick Church, Edward Thorpe and George Savogue. The court appointed Jacob Ward as foreman and swore in the whole number. With these preliminaries the jury retired for deliberation under the lead of C. Church, bailiff.

Some trouble having arisen in a settlement with Charles Church, he sued the county of Hancock at this term of court for the sum of one dollar. Judgment was given in his favor. There were present at this term of court the following lawyers: W. C. Stanberry, M. P. Rosecrans, H. N. Brockway, C. D. Pritchard, D. D. Chase, James Crow, James W. Wood of Hardin County, and Henry L. Huff, also of Hardin.

The regular May term, 1862, was opened upon the 29th day of that month, Judge John Porter presiding. The first criminal case in Hancock County was upon the docket of this court. It was a case against Charles and G. Gilpin and Stephen Gillespie, for aggravated assault upon the person of H. N. Brockway. This case was continued along from term to term and was settled, according to the record, by a plea of guilty and the payment of a \$5 fine.

The next term was held in May, 1863, and was presided over by John Porter, judge of the Eleventh District; C. C. Doolittle was clerk and John Maben was sheriff. But little business was up at this short session.

At the May term of 1864, for only one term was held each year then, Judge Porter was on the bench; Charles C. Doolittle, clerk, and John Maben, sheriff. A number of suits came up at this term and, with one exception, were without interest to the general reader: this exception was the case of Hancock County against William Aldrich. This was an action to recover the amount of a doctor's bill. It seems that a son of Mr. Aldrich had crushed his hand badly in a cane mill and the old gentleman was endeavoring to heal up the broken bones and bruised flesh with raw sorghum molasses, until it was almost in a state of gangrene. The town trustees, learning of it, ordered a doctor to attend to it and out of this grew the suit. After a trial before a jury, that body could not come to an understanding, and on reporting the fact of their disagreement to the court, they were discharged and the case allowed to lay over from court to court, until it was taken by change of venue to Winnebago County, where judgment was rendered for the county.

On July 4, 1864 the Twelfth Judicial District was created and com-

prised the counties of Worth, Winnebago, Mitchell, Hancock, Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Butler and Bremer. The counties, however, held to their old districts for court purposes until January 1865. At the election on the 8th of November, 1864, William B. Fairfield was elected district judge and John E. Burke, of Waverly, district attorney. Judge Fairfield was reelected in 1868 and I. W. Card was chosen district attorney. In 1870 Judge Fairfield resigned and George W. Ruddick of Bremer County was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1888 John C. Sherwin came to the bench. C. H. Kelley was elected to the position in 1898 and in 1900 C. P. Smith was elected to fill a vacancy. Kelley was reelected in 1902. J. F. Clyde was chosen for the position in 1904. The present judges of the Twelfth Judicial District are: C. H. Kelley, Joseph J. Clark and M. F. Edwards. A complete list of the district court judges may be summed up as follows: P. W. Burr, 1893-6; Joseph J. Clark, 1908, —; John B. Cleland, 1887-8; J. F. Clyde, 1897-1912; M. F. Edwards, 1913, —; W. B. Fairfield, 1865-70; C. H. Kelley, 1898, —; M. F. Moore, 1857-8; G. W. Ruddick, 1870-92; J. C. Sherwin, 1888-99; C. P. Smith, 1900-08; H. N. Brockway, 1869-72; R. G. Reiniger, 1870-84. Brockway, Reiniger and Cleland were circuit judges.

#### THE CIRCUIT COURT

By an act of the General Assembly, passed and approved April 3, 1868, courts of this description were established in Iowa, and each judicial district was divided into two circuits, in each of which, at the general election in November, 1868, and every four years thereafter, it was provided that a circuit judge should be elected. Four terms of court were provided, per year, in each county in the circuit. By this act the office of county judge was abolished and all business pertaining to that office was transferred to the circuit court, which was to have concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in all civil actions at law, and exclusive jurisdiction of all appeals, and writs of error from justices' courts, mayors' courts and all other inferior tribunals, either in civil or criminal cases. Hancock County, together with others, made a circuit of the Twelfth Judicial District.

H. N. Brockway was elected the first circuit judge for this circuit and served from January 1, 1869 until January, 1873, when he was succeeded by Robert G. Reiniger.

The first term of circuit court for Hancock County was held at Concord, commencing January 11, 1869. H. N. Brockway presided as judge: J. H. Beadle was sheriff and L. B. Bailey clerk. The following was the venire of the petit jury summoned, all of whom appeared: Joseph M. Whitis, Richard Colburn, John Martin, E. H. Foster, John

Melins, C. W. Rogers, John Christie Jr., Daniel Perry, J. J. Barker, Robert Elder, J. Q. Beadle, Cephas Church, Andrew Bolsinger, Malcolm Magill and Edward Hughes. No business presenting itself the court after organizing, adjourned sine die.

Judge Reiniger was succeeded upon the circuit court bench in 1884 by Judge John B. Cleland. Judge Cleland served two years, when, the circuit court becoming too unwieldy, it was abolished by an act of the state legislature.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS

The first county attorney was J. E. Wichman, who served from 1886 until 1891. Following him have been: W. E. Bradford, 1891-95; C. R. Wood, 1895-99; J. E. Wichman, 1899-1903; John Hammill, 1903-7; W. H. Ramsay, 1907-11; C. R. Wood, 1911-15; I. C. Hastings, 1915, —.

#### THE COUNTY JUDGE

The office of county judge was created by an act of the General Assembly in 1857. It was proposed to make this the most important office in the county, as the judge, in connection with the county court, consisting of himself, the prosecuting attorney and the sheriff, transacted almost all the business now devolving upon the board of supervisors, auditor and clerk of the court.

M. P. Rosecrans was the first county judge, being unanimously elected to fill that position in June, 1858, at the time of the organization of the county, Judge Rosecrans' duties began with his election. He was reelected twice and served until January, 1866. Phineas Hayward succeeded Judge Rosecrans in the office of county judge in 1866 and served two years. G. W. Elder came next and served until the first of January, 1869, when the office was abolished.

#### COURT CLERKS

The office of clerk of the courts was in existence at the time of the organization of Hancock County. At the first election therein, June 28, 1858, George Louppe was elected clerk of the courts for Hancock County. His successors have been: C. D. Pritchard, 1861-3; Charles C. Doolittle, 1863-5; James M. Elder, 1865-9; L. B. Bailey, 1869-71; C. C. Doolittle, 1871-86; Isaac Sweigard, 1886-91; Wesley Aldridge, 1891-5; J. M. Coutts, 1895-1900; L. D. Womeldorf, 1900-2; F. C. Bush, 1902-7; W. F. Missman, 1907-11; J. W. Knadler, 1911-15; E. L. Stilson, 1915, —.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

THE FIRST DOCTORS AND THEIR PRACTICES—HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY—PIONEER REMEDIES—EARLY DOCTORS IN HANCOCK COUNTY—THE PRESENT PHYSICIANS IN THE COUNTY.

The practice of medicine or the custom of relieving and curing the ills of the genus homo is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the professions known to civilization. Healing has always been a necessity of the human family. It is reasonable to suppose that the first antidotes were derived from plant life—thus according to Nature the honor of being the greatest doctor of all, an honor which has never been disputed. From records it is learned that the practice of medicine is the oldest in China and India. The best authorities claim that the art had its beginning in China at the time of the Emperor Hwang Ti, who ruled about 2687 B. C. Prior to the coming of Christian missionaries to China that nation knew nothing of anatomy or blood circulation; their remedies consisted chiefly of vegetable and mineral concoctions, with a few medicines derived from animals. The Egyptians are given credit of having been the first people to reduce the practice of medicine to a system or profession. There the priests were the first physicians, but from old documents discovered in the land of the Nile it is evident that others practiced, and that they had specialists such as gynecologists, surgeons, veterinarians and even oculists. In the early life of the Hebrews disease was considered a natural punishment for sin and therefore beyond the power of man to cure. After the Egyptian captivity many of the healing methods learned from their captors were practiced among the Jews, though the priests regarded the custom as a dangerous one. Consequently, the physician never became a popular person in Palestine.

After Egypt, Greece was the first to have regular physicians. Chiron, the Centaur, is said to have been the first Greek to claim the power of healing the sick. His pupil, Æsculapius, founded a school of medicine, but after a time it degenerated into superstition and mysticism and its value was destroyed. Hippocrates, who was born about 460 B. C., was the first great Greek physician. He wrote treatises on hygiene, surgery and other topics, and classified diseases, but at the same time possessed no knowledge of anatomy to speak of. He has been correctly called the Father of Medicine.

At the beginning of the Christian Era, Celsus, a Roman, became notable; he was of the Hippocratic school. Celsus was succeeded by Galen, who wrote over one hundred works, some on the subject of anatomy. The systematic study of anatomy did not begin, though, until the sixteenth century, when the first dissection was performed by Vesalius, an Italian physician and surgeon. After the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey and the development of the science of chemistry, the science of medicine gained a great impetus. From this time it progresses rapidly, until it has reached the magnificent plane upon which it now rests.

#### PIONEER REMEDIES

The pioneer family, under necessity of circumstances, was often compelled to have their own pharmacy in the cabin and to act as doctor to each other. This duty of diagnosis and treatment more often fell to the grandmother, with her expert knowledge of "yarbs." Blue pills, senna, quinine, bone-set tea, burdock or snake root bitters, decoctions of wild cherry and hickory bark, poultices and plasters, also Spanish Fly, were given. One pioneer physician remarked that after the patient reached a convalescent stage, if indeed such a stage were ever reached, generous doses of castor oil were given to work out of the system the deleterious effects of the initial course of treatment. Blood-letting was also considered an efficient means of combating disease, the doctors believing that by letting a copious amount of the life-giving fluid from the veins, the tenement of the demon disease would thereby be destroyed. Permit a pioneer woman to state her views: "Of the pests we endured there were three in particular—the shakes, the Indians and the doctors." Duncan, in his "Reminiscences of the Medical Profession," says that "the first requisite was a generous supply of English calomel." To this were added jalap, aloes, Dover's Powder, castor oil and Peruvian bark. If a cruel cathartic, followed by blood-letting and a fly blister, did not improve the condition of the patient, the doctor "would look wise and trust to the sick man's rugged constitution to pull him through."

The old-fashioned doctor must be commended, even if his methods were crude. His knowledge and practice were restricted. Frequently he had no professional education to speak of, this training having been in a measure gained by an apprenticeship to some older physician. The pioneer doctors followed the tide of emigration to the great West and there built up their practice. In the face of biting winds, chilling rains, in the darkest hours of the night, the doctor made his visits; fording streams, crossing sloughs and pushing his way across the trackless

prairie. The pioneers, in general, were in financial straits and his fees were small, generally in the form of flour, meat or corn, or whatever produce the settler could best afford to give. His method of locomotion was almost entirely by horseback, with a lantern to light the way. His pill-bags, consisting of two leather boxes joined by a strap, were slung over the saddle.

What would be this pioneer doctor's thoughts were he to see the complicated array of medical apparatus, the technique of the modern surgeon with his many operations a day, the use of serums and anti-toxins, and learn the theories of medical science as they are now? But even as his art would be considered primeval and practically useless, just so much did his labors and sacrifices pave the way for all these splendid wonders—without him they could not have been created.

#### EARLY PHYSICIANS IN HANCOCK COUNTY

For many years there was no physician in Hancock County, such services as were necessary being performed by doctors from Forest City or Belmond.

Dr. Charles L. Buffon settled at Upper Grove about 1859 and practiced medicine to a small extent. He was a first-class practitioner, and was thoroughly educated. While here he also engaged in farming. He afterwards entered the service of the United States as a surgeon during the Civil War and made quite a reputation. He later located at Vinton, Benton County, and entered the practice.

In 1869 Doctor Stanley came into Hancock County and located at Concord. He came here from Wisconsin, where he had been in practice for several years. He stayed at this place about two years, then removed to Minnesota. He was a fine looking man, of commanding appearance, and was known as a careful and conscientious doctor. After leaving Concord he went to Clear Lake, but soon after left that place for the neighboring state of Wisconsin.

Among the other early physicians of Hancock County who were prominent in the affairs of this section of the state were: Drs. Z. C. Greene, R. G. Hamilton, H. W. Smith, H. F. Fort, Eugene McNeil, Keller, Alleyne, A. M. Tuttle and A. J. Cole.

Dr. Z. C. Greene came to the village of Garner in 1875 and entered upon the practice of medicine. He was a young man from DeWitt, Clinton County, and fresh from school. He was elected coroner during the year 1876. His stay in Hancock County, however, was not of long duration, for after a few years' service here he departed for other fields.

Dr. H. W. Smith, one of the prominent physicians, located at Garner in 1877, although long a resident of the county. He carried on a general drug business in connection with his practice.

Dr. H. W. Smith was a native of Wisconsin and when twenty-two years of age located in Hancock County, after graduating from the Rush Medical College of Chicago.

Dr. H. F. Fort settled at the town of Britt in August, 1878. He was a native of New York, where he received his early education, later studying medicine with Dr. C. H. Bacon of Lockport, Illinois, then completing his studies in Chicago and Philadelphia. Doctor Fort was the first practitioner in the town of Britt.

Dr. R. G. Hamilton located at Garner in the year 1882 and began practice, later going into partnership with his son—Royal Graves Hamilton. Doctor Hamilton was born in Maine, began reading medicine in the office of Dr. Mark L. Cushing at Grand Detour, Illinois, then attended the Rush Medical College at Chicago. His son was a graduate of the same excellent school.

Dr. Eugene McNeil located at the village of Britt sometime in July, 1880, but was not long a resident of the county, as he left suddenly in October of the same year.

Doctor Keller, during the latter part of the year 1880, came to Britt from Forest City, with the intention of making this his permanent home, but after looking over the field he concluded that it was already crowded and pursued his course farther West. His stay here consumed about six weeks of time.

Doctor Alleyne, a physician from the West India Islands, located at Britt in 1880, but remained only a month, when he also moved westward, stopping at Wesley, Kossuth County.

Dr. A. M. Tuttle, a homeopathic physician, also made a short stay in the county. In 1881 he settled at Britt, where he acquired considerable practice, but left this vicinity in June, 1883, for Chamberlain, Dakota, where he expected an even larger amount of business.

Dr. Hartley Haskett, an allopathic physician, located at the town of Corwith in April, 1881, and built up a fine practice. He was a native of Ohio and prior to the time of his appearance in Hancock County traveled extensively in search of a desirable location.

According to the State Gazetteer of Iowa, 1915-16, the following are the doctors now practicing in Hancock County: George Bemis, W. M. Brackett, J. E. Fraser, H. A. Richter, R. W. Schultz (osteopath) in Garner; J. A. Cole, T. A. Burke, B. F. Denny, C. O. Brewster, and Edwin A. Couper in Britt; Bushley & Fillmore in Corwith; A. L. Judd in Kanawha; George Zinn and W. F. Missman in Klemme; Joseph E. Marek in Goodell; and N. D. Ray in Woden. Mention is made in the history of the medical profession of Winnebago County of the medical society, of which both Winnebago and Hancock County physicians are members.

## CHAPTER XII

### MISCELLANEOUS

EARLY AGRICULTURE—EARLY FARM METHODS—A CYCLONE—DEATH OF JACOB WARD—THE HANCOCK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, ITS ORGANIZATION—THE FIRST FAIR.

#### EARLY AGRICULTURE

In the chapter upon the early settlement of Hancock County, in this volume, there are census statistics of many years, those of the beginning and those of the present time, showing the marvelous growth of agriculture, the great increase in the amount of grain produced with each year's crop and the long strides which have been taken in the breeding and raising of live stock. The early farmer and his methods deserve a few words in commemoration as well as for informative purposes. He made possible the wonderful evolution of soil cultivation. The farmer of today reaps the benefit of his genius. From the primitive harrow and rake, the farmer has conceived devices which were labor-saving and time-saving. The science of agriculture has consequently grown to such an extent that it requires a man of intelligence and ability to become successful; the mere planter and plower cannot cope with his educated neighbor who has not only attended the short course in agriculture at the state university, but has access to all the modern periodicals published upon the subjects relative to the farm.

One of the pioneers of Hancock County (name not available) in writing upon the hardships of the pioneers in this part of Iowa, said in part:

Shortly after our settlement here my father, with a good team of horses and an old-fashioned sod plow began to go out and turn the virgin soil preparatory to raising a crop. The plowman's necessary equipment for success were as follows: Plenty of patience, a whip, a plow file, a heavy hammer and a hunk of iron, to use as an anvil to cold hammer the plowshare occasionally; the file with which to put the finishing touch on; and the patience came into good play when he encountered a stone, a root, or some other obstacle that jerked the plow, plowman and all clear out of the furrow. There were also numerous snakes to contend with, the rattlesnake, the bull snake, the

hissing viper, the blue racer, the house snake, the garter snake, the horn snake, the yellow joint snake, the green joint snake, the blue black joint snake and a few other species, besides the nasty lizards which could be seen by the hundreds.

Now as the virgin soil had been turned bottom side up and time had arrived for corn planting we proceeded to plant corn by one of the following methods: By axing it in, hoeing it in, heeling it in or dropping by hand, following the plow every third round, and dropping the grain on top of the furrow, at such a place that the next furrow would barely cover it with its upper edge. This would produce what we called a crop of sod corn, either good or bad, according to the season and condition of the sod. Plenty of rain was essential to a good crop. It was also essential for the sod to be well rotted. Scores of snakes would be cut in twain by the plow every season, among them a great many rattlesnakes. The early settlers did not have implement stores to which they could go and purchase farming tools, but were compelled of necessity to make them. When the ground was in condition for harrowing we set to work with three sticks of timber some four or five inches square and perhaps six feet in length, framed or bolted them together, which when joined would be a good representation of the letter A. Next with an inch and a half or two-inch auger we bored holes in the side pieces and cross section, into which we inserted huge pegs made from oak or hickory, then sharpened the lower ends of the pegs and our harrow was completed. Our wooden harrow rotted down in the fence corner after many years of good service. A few years later the sod tearer was invented. It was such a peculiarly constructed instrument that to the writer it baffles description.

Much of the virgin soil contained so many tough roots that it was uncommon to see a furrow of sod one half mile long without a break in it. Some of the toughest roots were the wild indigo, shoe string, blue stem, rosin weed and sometimes a patch of hazel or buck brush. The rosin weed produced a white gum which was used as chewing gum by the lads of the early day.

After a few months spent in the little cabin in the brush we decided to venture out on the broad, bleak prairie and erect another log cabin. A well was dug, which supplied water for the house, but for years our stock had to be taken across the prairie to some creek or spring to quench their thirst, and as for ourselves when working in the fields or on the prairie making hay, we have many times drank from a puddle containing many angle worms, crawfish and bugs, and the water would often be warm enough for dish water. Time rolled on and it became necessary to fence our farm; father proceeded to the timber some eleven miles distant and split rails and hauled them, and a worm

fence was built, which when completed was from seven to ten rails in height; but soon a new difficulty arose. More settlers were coming in, fires were started in the prairie grass; some were started by accident, some purposely and on quite a few occasions campers have left fire where they had stopped for the night; the wind would rise and the fire would be scattered. Soon a conflagration would be raging across the prairies and perhaps hundreds or even thousands of acres would be burned over before the fire went out. In many cases the fires would burn all night. It was at such times that our rail fencees would suffer destruction. Then an idea came to us how to prevent this loss.

The fires of course would do most of the mischief in the spring, and at some convenient time we would plow a few furrows around the farm near the fence, then perhaps two or three rods farther from the fence we would plow a few more, the strip between was called fire land. At a favorable time, when the wind was not blowing, generally of an evening, father would say, "Well, boys, this is a good time to burn out those fire lands." This pleased the boys and after the day's work was done we equipped ourselves with small boards and brush to fight fire, and on some occasions we would take along from one to three barrels of water, so in case fire should get into the fence, we were fixed for it. All things ready we commenced firing along the side, so the fire would have to burn against the wind, but it matters not how calm it was when the fire was started the hot air rising creates a vacuum and the cold air rushing in to take its place, would cause a breeze and sometimes the fire would get beyond control despite our best efforts, and sometimes we would not reach home until a very late hour in the night. A weed well known to early settlers called the tumbleweed or careless weed which grew in great numbers on the newly cultivated lands, the tops of which were almost spherical in shape and ranging in diameter from twelve to thirty-six inches, when assisted by a breeze, would carry fire for some distance. They were so near round they would roll for miles without stopping when a stiff wind was blowing.

When the soil had become well rotted and the corn big enough to need attention we plowed it with a cultivator having but one shovel, which was made from a triangular shaped piece of iron, with which it was necessary to plow two rounds to each row of corn. The cultivator was used in the field more or less until the silk made its appearance on the young ears of corn. The worst weed we had to contend with in the corn field in those days was a species of smart weed, rarely seen except on new land. It grew down close to the ground and had a firm grip upon it. Hoes were extensively used in those days in the corn field. Another advanced step was taken in the method of planting corn. The cultivator referred to was used to draw a shallow furrow for each row

of corn, the corn is then dropped into the furrow, about every three feet, then covered either with a hoe or by cross harrowing, three of us dropping and one furrowing off, planting as much as seven acres in one day.

The time came when we were raising a little spring wheat, oats and flax. The method of threshing grain, after it had been harvested with the cradling seythe and was well cured, was to prepare a circular piece of ground, usually from sixteen to twenty feet in diameter, by taking a sharp spade and shaving off the surface until it was quite smooth and level; after this was done a pole some eight or ten feet high was set upright in a hole dug in the center of the circular patch of ground. To this pole usually two horses were tied with long ropes and a lad mounted on one of the horses with a small gad. The grain had been evenly spread upon the prepared ground and the horses were started on a long tramp, tramping out the grain on the ground, a process which was very monotonous to the horses, and, speaking from experience, the writer was very glad when the noon hour or nightfall had arrived. The grain, during the tramping process, was turned over with a forked stick, and as soon as the grain was tramped out the straw was removed and the grain gathered up and winnowed out. A fresh supply was spread upon the floor and the tramping process was continued.

The snowfall during some of the winters was very heavy. I believe it was in the winter of 1866 that we arose and discovered that the snow had drifted to the eaves of the little cabin. Our fences were all snowed under and our stock scattered hither and thither and our enclosures for stock were all under snow. After the snow fell the weather turned colder and the snow froze hard. We could drive in any direction across the prairie over high fences. We had just put out a washing before the snow and it was six weeks before we were enabled to find all of it. Heavy snows were common, but this one was the heaviest that I ever saw. Our cabin was covered with clapboards as was the custom in those days, and the snow would blow between them and sift down through the loft into our faces as we lay in bed during the snowstorm. The last thing the good mother would do before retiring was to see if the five children were in bed, covered up head and all so that the snow would not lodge in their faces. It was a common occurrence after a snowstorm had subsided for some one of the family to ascend to the loft and scoop the snow out before it melted.

As we pass along it might be well to describe the bedsteads installed in some of the cabins. One method of constructing a bedstead was to place a log in the walls angling across a corner of the cabin at a convenient height, into which pegs were set about six inches apart. A small rope was then procured and strung back and forth from the pegs

in the logs to corresponding pegs in the cabin. A later method of construction was to procure two round poles to serve as side rails, set the pegs into them, fasten them to corner posts, nail on end rails, then string the pegs with the rope, and the bedstead was completed.

No cabin was complete without the fireplace. The hearth was laid with brick or stone and the chimney usually built of the same materials, or wooden slats built up in mud or lime mortar. In our cabin the hearth was made of flat limestone under which the rats burrowed and made nests and reared their young and as their disgusting habits are nocturnal and the saucy little rodents would emerge from underneath the hearth during the night, especially in the winter, and skip about the fire, evidently warming themselves, and eating such things as suited their taste. They would sometimes bite some of the family or anyone who chanced to be there during the night. My brother was bitten on the great toe while asleep. A servant girl who was employed to assist in the household duties was also bitten, whereupon she cried "murder." But as that was a common expression with some people in those days when they were frightened, hurt or alarmed, the family thought nothing, but someone proceeded to make a light to ascertain how badly she was bitten.

The various kinds of lights used in those days were first the grease light, then the grease lamp and then the tallow candle.

When the sod had become well rotted watermelons, pumpkins and potatoes did quite well. Among the various kinds of potatoes grown were: The calico, white meshannock, California peach blow, long red, and lady finger, the long red being the most prolific.

For several years after Iowa became a state apples were hauled in from Missouri, many of them coming from what was known as the famous crab orchard, so called because the apple scions were grafted into the root of the wild crab. The first apples the writer ever saw grown were in a small orchard of young trees planted on the old homestead. I think there were less than a dozen of them, which were guarded very closely, lest something befall them before they were matured.

After the chaff piling threshing machine was introduced the threshing of grain was not so great a task as it was formerly, but as the straw carrier had not yet been invented it became necessary to remove the straw and chaff from the rear end of the machine, either with horses or by some other method, any of which was very disagreeable, as the chaff and dust would fill the eyes, nose, ears and mouth, but even so, it was quite an improvement.

Thinking there might be profit in sheep raising we purchased a flock of two or three hundred, with a guarantee from the owner that none

of them was more than four years old, but soon they began to die of old age and we discovered that we were beaten in the deal; however, we kept on trying. We had plenty of range, but they must have a shepherd, which lot usually fell upon the writer; and permit me to say that it was a very monotonous, lonesome occupation, watching sheep on the broad prairie and not a human being in sight for hours at a time. For years we were compelled to lot the sheep at night near the cabin, to prevent the wolves from killing them, but even then they would get among them and kill the lambs. One day while the writer was tending his sheep a short distance from the cabin a wolf came into the flock and seizing a lamb by the back of the neck trotted off with it. I waved my stick, which I usually carried, vigorously in the air and yelled with all the force I could summon. The wolf dropped the lamb and I took it to the cabin, but it was so badly injured that it only lived a few days. Our flock increased and the extremely old ones died off and we had better success for a time. In our flock was a large fellow with curled horns; he had been teased quite a little and had become quite mischievous. On a certain occasion by accident the sheep became imprisoned in the smoke house, some member of the family had closed the door, not knowing that he was in there. The servant of the kitchen, who was commonly called an old maid, went to the smoke house for something to serve for the dinner meal and on opening the door the sheep made a dive for her, running between her feet, carrying her for a short distance and bleating as if in great agony, while the maid was screaming and trying to alight from his back. The situation seemed to be a critical one, as the sheep did not know how to unload his burden and the maid feared trying to let loose for fear of getting hurt in the attempt, but finally by some kind of maneuvers they came out of the fracas none the worse for wear.

Another advance had been made in the corn cultivator which then had two shovels instead of one and a row of corn was plowed every round of the horse and plowman, which was quite gratifying to the farmers, but while this was true new and additional weeds were added to the warmer's list of pests, among which were the milk weed and the black-eyed Susan, both of which are with us unto the present day. The latter was introduced into this country as a garden flower by some English people.

Time rolls on and the rats under the hearth having increased in numbers and boldness, they became almost unbearable and father set traps and caught quite a number of them. The cabin all being in one room, we could watch them by the light of the fireplace from all quarters of the room and I must say that it was amusing to see father spring out of bed on hearing the trap spring and kill the rat, set the trap again,

and retire, sometimes only remaining in bed but a short time, when he would repeat the operation. Someone prescribed a remedy. It was as follows: Catch a rat, singe it over the fire and turn it loose and the rats would all take a leave of absence. Father caught the rat, but his heart failed him when it came to the singeing process and the rat never got singed. So much for rat trapping around the old fireside.

Other improvements had been made to facilitate corn planting. A farmer a few miles distant had purchased a two-horse planter for about \$75 and we could hire it for about fifteen cents per acre. The ground when ready to plant was first marked off with a kind of sled, the first one to appear made two marks at once and in a few years someone placed an improvement on the market and it made three marks. The ground being marked, two persons, a driver and a dropper, a team of horses and the new corn planter, would plant from ten to fifteen acres per day. The most common variety of corn planted during those days was the bloody butcher, although more or less white corn was grown.

A threshing machine had been introduced with a short straw carrier attachment known as the Buffalo Pitts, which was quite an improvement over the old chaff piler. In connection with this thresher was introduced a system of tallying the number of bushels of grain threshed. It consisted mainly of a board attached to the side of the machine where the grain came out. It had a number of one-fourth inch holes in it, arranged in rows into which pegs were moved for each bushel of grain threshed. The board would tally up to 1000 bushels, when it became necessary to begin again at the first.

So much for the early and primitive methods of farming. The raising of beets for beet sugar has become a very large industry in Hancock County within the last score or so of years and each year many carloads of this vegetable are shipped to manufacturing points.

#### A CYCLONE

In June, 1881, a cyclone devastated the greater part of Ellington Township. In the Garner Signal of that date appears the following description of this storm:

"A terrible cyclone swept across our county last Saturday afternoon, carrying destruction to nearly all within its reach and leaving desolate ruin in its wake. It came from the southwest and traveled in a direct northeasterly course. It first struck the ground in Garfield Township and made ruins of everything before it.

"The first building it struck in Ellington Township was that of J. B. Gould, in the southwest corner, occupied, at the time, by Harvey Gould and family. The house was blown into kindling wood and Mr. Gould

and his wife dangerously wounded. Mrs. Gould was badly cut and bruised about the head, and in fact all over her body and limbs also. Her collar bone was broken and her lower limbs and the lower part of her body paralyzed. At this writing she lies in a very precarious condition. Mr. Gould sustained several broken ribs and was otherwise bruised and cut.

“W. C. Moak’s farm house, occupied by a German family, had the roof taken off; the granary and stable were also demolished.

“C. A. Clark’s house, built of logs, was next taken and not one log left on top of another. The family of five were all in the house, but fortunately escaped with but few slight bruises. Their little girl was upstairs when the storm came, and was blown some ten or twelve rods, and when found a log was lying on her clothes, holding her down, but she was not hurt.

#### DEATH OF JACOB WARD

“Jacob Ward’s farm house and buildings was the next point of positive and terrible disaster. His fine double farm residence, large barn, 100 feet long, sheds, etc., were blown into splinters and Uncle Jake was found a lifeless corpse among the ruins, some eight or ten rods from where the house had stood. He had stepped out of doors from the supper table, remarking that he thought the wind was going to blow and he would see to his wind mill, and just as he stepped outside the storm struck him. He was found with his neck broken and his breast crushed in. The others of the family escaped without dangerous injury. Uncle Jacob Ward was one of the pioneer settlers of the county, widely known and universally respected. He was once treasurer and recorder of the county, and an active participant in our political and social affairs. He was sixty-one years of age, had a fine farm, and was in shape to pass the remainder of his allotted days in peace, comfort and plenty. But now he is no more. Thousands of dollars of his earnings, and his own life, went before the blast of the hurricane in a moment of time.

“Francis N. Colburn’s large barn, granary and the kitchen to his house were demolished.

“Richard Colburn’s house was taken entirely off the foundation and literally ruined. The roof was taken off, and the sides of the building, though left standing, were racked to pieces. His granary and barn were blown down and some of his stock killed.

“Beyond Mr. Colburn’s the houses of Lewis Thompson and Nels Oleson were destroyed.

“The Center schoolhouse at Ellington, a large two-story building, was entirely destroyed.

"Andrew Bolsinger's house was blown into kindling wood, but aside from light bruises the whole family escaped uninjured.

"George W. Gillett lost his stables, blacksmith shop and the kitchen to his house, but the main part of his house was left standing. A portion of the planking was torn off the bridge across Lime Creek, and several small bridges were destroyed.

"S. N. Howland's buildings were damaged somewhat. The empty log house on his prairie farm, where George Stonebaugh used to live, had the roof taken off.

"Joseph Whiteis had some stables blown down and Charles Nelson lost a granary.

"O. K. Pike was driving home with a new lumber wagon, and buggy hitched behind. The storm blew him out into a slough, lifted one horse clear over the other, and broke his wagon and buggy. The box to his wagon was taken entirely away and he has been unable to find any trace of it.

"G. Carlson lost a granary on the Blanchard Barrett farm. There were, of course, many others who sustained damages to a greater or less extent. Fences were swept away and broken down.

"In company with J. J. Upton we drove, on the next morning after the storm, over several miles of the track of the tornado. One could easily follow its path over the prairie by the flattened grasses and weeds, and pieces of boards and sticks driven partly into the ground. The track of the whirlwind seemed to be from three to six rods wide. Of course this hurricane caused a heavy current of air and heavy wind that reached some distance to each side, and did some damage. It was a terrible storm and one never to be forgotten by those who felt and witnessed its effects."

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Hancock County Agricultural Society was organized at Britt on the 13th of August, 1881, and the following officers were chosen: George Stubbins, president; Lucien Tuttle, vice president; F. B. Rogers, secretary; Thomas Daylor, treasurer; G. W. Beadle, G. R. Maben, James Lackore, L. H. Chase, H. C. Potter, Herman Brummond, Fred Lentz, Thomas Hymer, Joseph Finch, John Burnside, A. D. White, and J. D. Bailey, directors. At the same time articles of incorporation were adopted.

The first fair held under the auspices of the association was upon the 11th, 12th and 13th of October, 1881, and was a success in every way.

## CHAPTER XIII

### CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

IMPORTANCE OF DATES IN THE STUDY OF HISTORY—INFLUENCE OF EVENTS ON THOSE THAT FOLLOW—EXAMPLES—THE SUMMARY—LIST OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ORGANIZATION OF WINNEBAGO AND HANCOCK COUNTIES—IMPORTANT OCCURRENCES OF MORE MODERN TIMES—POSTSCRIPT, IN LIEU OF A PREFACE.

In the foregoing chapters a conscientious effort has been made to show the progress of Winnebago and Hancock Counties since the first settlements were made within their limits three score years ago, as well as their part in the political and military affairs of the state and nation. Dates play an important part in the study of history and they are not always easily found when wanted. As a fitting conclusion to this work, the following summary of events leading up to the settlement of the counties, their organization, and occurrences having some bearing upon their more recent history has been compiled for the reader's ready reference.

At first glance, many of these events may seem to have no connection—or a very remote one at least—with local history, but this is another case of the “Seen and the Unseen.” Each event, great or small, played its allotted part in shaping the destiny of the great State of Iowa and wielded its influence upon Winnebago and Hancock Counties. For example: The discovery of the Mississippi River by De Soto in 1541; the English grant of land to the Plymouth Company in 1620; the organization of the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1670; or the claiming of the Mississippi Valley by La Salle in 1682, may appear to the casual reader as having no place in the history of Winnebago and Hancock Counties. Yet these events were forerunners of the conflict of Spanish, English and French claims in America—a conflict which finally culminated in the purchase of Louisiana by the United States, by which the territory now comprising the State of Iowa came under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. Without the happening of any one of these events, the history of this country might be differently written.

## THE SUMMARY

—, 1541. Hernando de Soto discovered the Mississippi River near the site of the present City of Memphis, Tennessee.

—, 1620. The English Government granted to the Plymouth Company a large tract of land including the present State of Iowa.

May 2, 1670. The Hudson's Bay Company was chartered by the English Government. This was the first of the great fur companies formed for trading with the North American Indians.

June 17, 1673. Marquette and Joliet, the French explorer, discovered the Mississippi River at the mouth of the Wisconsin and saw the bluffs near the present City of McGregor, Iowa.

June 25, 1673. Marquette and Joliet landed in what is now Lee County, Iowa, and were the first white men to set foot on Iowa soil.

April 9, 1682. Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, claimed all the country drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries for France and gave the region the name of Louisiana. Iowa was included in this claim.

November 3, 1762. France, by the Treaty of Fontainebleau, ceded all that part of the Province of Louisiana west of the Mississippi to Spain. Iowa thus became a Spanish possession.

February 10, 1763. The Treaty of Fontainebleau was ratified by the Treaty of Paris, and at the same time France ceded all that part of Louisiana east of the Mississippi to Great Britain.

September 3, 1783. Conclusion of the treaty that ended the Revolutionary war and fixed the western boundary of the United States at the Mississippi River.

—, 1788. The first white settlement in Iowa was made by Julien Dubuque on the site of the city now bearing his name.

October 1, 1800. Conclusion of the Treaty of San Ildefonso, by which Spain ceded back to France that part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi River.

April 30, 1803. By the Treaty of Paris the United States purchased Louisiana. Iowa by this treaty became the property of the United States Government.

October 31, 1803. Congress passed an act authorizing the President to take possession of Louisiana and establish a temporary government therein.

December 20, 1803. The United States commissioners took formal possession of Louisiana at New Orleans.

October 1, 1804. Louisiana divided into the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana. Iowa was in the latter, which was placed under the jurisdiction of Indiana Territory.

November 4, 1804. First treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians concluded at St. Louis by Gen. William H. Harrison.

January 11, 1805. The Territory of Michigan established by act of Congress.

August 9, 1805. Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike left St. Louis to explore the upper Mississippi River. On the 21st he held a council with some of the Iowa Indians about where the town of Montrose, in Lee County, now stands.

—, 1807. Iowa attached to Illinois Territory by act of Congress.

June 4, 1812. The Territory of Missouri was created and Iowa attached to the new territory.

September 13, 1815. Treaty of peace with the Sac and Fox Indians concluded at Portage des Sioux.

March, 1821. Missouri admitted into the Union as a state and Iowa left without any form of civil government.

—, 1824. A trader named Harte established a post where the City of Council Bluffs now stands.

July 15, 1830. Treaty of Prairie du Chien establishing the "Neutral Ground" between the Sioux tribes on the north and the Sacs and Foxes on the south.

August 2, 1832. Last battle of the Black Hawk war, in which the Indians were defeated.

September 21, 1832. A treaty was concluded at Davenport, Iowa, by which the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a strip of land forty miles wide across the eastern part of the state. This cession, known as the "Black Hawk Purchase," was the first land in Iowa to be opened to white settlers.

June, 1833. The first postoffice in Iowa was established at Dubuque.

June 28, 1834. President Jackson approved the act attaching Iowa to the Territory of Michigan.

September, 1834. The Michigan Legislature divided the present State of Iowa into two counties—Dubuque and Des Moines. Winnebago and Hancock were included in Dubuque County.

April 20, 1836. President Jackson approved the bill creating the Territory of Wisconsin, which included all the present State of Iowa, the act to take effect on July 4, 1836.

May 11, 1836. The Dubuque Visitor, the first newspaper in Iowa, established by John King.

May, 1836. The first census in Iowa was taken by order of Governor Dodge of Wisconsin. Population, 10,351.

October 3, 1836. First election ever held in Iowa, for members of the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature.

November 6, 1836. A convention met at Burlington and adopted a memorial to Congress asking for the establishment of a new territory west of the Mississippi River.

June 12, 1838. President Van Buren approved the act of Congress creating the Territory of Iowa. The first capital was located at Burlington later in the same year.

October 3, 1838. Death of Black Hawk, the great chief of the Sacs and Foxes.

May 9, 1843. Capt. James Allen came up the Des Moines River with a detachment of troops and selected a site for Fort Des Moines where the capital of the state now stands.

October 7, 1844. Iowa's first constitutional convention met at Iowa City. That constitution was rejected by the people.

May 4, 1846. Second constitutional convention met at Iowa City. The second constitution was ratified by the voters on August 3, 1846.

November 30, 1846. The first State Legislature met at Iowa City.

December 28, 1846. President Polk approved the act of Congress admitting Iowa into the Union as a state.

January 28, 1850. Gov. Stephen Hempstead approved an act of the Legislature creating fifty new counties, among which were Winnebago and Hancock.

August 5, 1851. Treaty of Mendota, by which the Mdewakanton Sioux relinquished their claims to lands in Northern Iowa.

April, 1852. The last battle between the Sioux and the Sac and Fox Indians on Iowa soil took place in Kossuth County.

September 9, 1854. Anson Avery, the first white settler in Hancock County, located at Upper Grove.

January, 1855. Birth of George Avery, the first white child born in Hancock County.

—, 1855. In the spring of this year Thomas Bearse and George W. Thomas settled in Winnebago County. They were the first permanent settlers.

—, 1856. The first sawmill built in Winnebago County.

August 20, 1856. The first land entered in Winnebago County by John B. Gilchrist.

March 14, 1857. Mrs. Louis Nelson died; the first death in Winnebago County.

May 7, 1857. Birth of George R. Blowers, the first white child born in the County of Winnebago.

October 13, 1857. First election of county officers in Winnebago County.

—, 1857. First postoffice in Hancock County established at Upper Grove, with Benoni Haskins as postmaster.

—, 1857. First postoffice in Winnebago County established at Forest City, with Robert Clark as postmaster.

—, 1857. First schoolhouse in Winnebago County built at Forest City.

June 28, 1858. First election of county officers in Hancock County.

June, 1859. First term of the District Court in Winnebago County, Judge John Porter, presiding.

May 24, 1860. Judge Porter held the first term of District Court in Hancock County.

January 7, 1861. First meeting of the board of supervisors of Hancock County.

April 14, 1861. First marriage license ever issued in Hancock County—to Thomas Wheelock and Christine Sheaf.

January 9, 1867. First Masonic lodge in Winnebago County was instituted at Forest City.

June 14, 1867. The first number of the Winnebago Press, the first newspaper in Winnebago County, was issued by Will Kelly.

—, 1870. A postoffice was established at Garner, with Royal Lovell as postmaster.

July 27, 1872. The first Masonic lodge in Hancock County was organized at Garner.

December, 1874. The Hancock County Bank opened its doors for business. It was the first bank in the county.

April 27, 1878. The Minnesota & Iowa Southern Railroad Company was organized at Forest City.

June 25, 1878. Forest City was incorporated.

December 3, 1879. The first train on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad arrived at Forest City.

June 23, 1881. The town of Britt, Hancock County, was incorporated.

October 11-13, 1881. The first fair in Hancock County was held at Britt.

March 8, 1883. First post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Winnebago County was organized at Forest City.

May 23, 1883. The first G. A. R. post in Hancock County was organized at Britt.

January 6, 1897. The present Winnebago County courthouse was accepted by the supervisors.

September 14, 1899. Forest City Public Library building was dedicated.

June 5, 1905. The supervisors of Winnebago County purchased ninety acres of land in King Township for a poor farm.

March 3, 1917. Three buildings in Forest City, at the northeast corner of the public square, destroyed by fire.

## POSTSCRIPT—IN LIEU OF A PREFACE.

To assist in preserving a record of past events; to keep green the memory of by-gone days; to write of the deeds and achievements of those who have gone before us; to profit by their mistakes as well as to emulate their examples, is but a duty that every individual owes to a common humanity. It was with thoughts such as these in mind that this history of Winnebago and Hancock Counties was undertaken.

Less than a century ago the region now comprising the State of Iowa was part of the “great unexplored” domain of the United States. The Indian and the wild beast were the only occupants. The hills and dales of Winnebago and Hancock counties were covered with primeval groves or the tall grass of the prairie. The muskrat and the beaver inhabited the swamps unmolested. An occasional hunter or trapper ventured into this wild region and the reports he carried back to civilization aroused an interest in the country west of the Great Father of Waters. Then came the white man with plow and ax and all was changed. The red man and the wolf have departed. The swamps have been drained and brought under cultivation. To tell the story of this change; to recount the hardships of the pioneers; to note the accomplishments of those who succeeded them upon the stage of action, have been the objects in view in the writing of this history. How well those objects have been attained is for the reader to determine.

In presenting this work to the people of Winnebago and Hancock counties, the publishers desire to state that no effort has been spared to make the history both authentic and comprehensive. Authentic, because, as far as possible, the official records of the counties have been consulted as sources of information; and comprehensive, because, it is believed, no important event has been overlooked or neglected.

The work has been one involving great care and labor and at times no little difficulty has been encountered. Much credit is due to old residents for their ready and willing coöperation in the collection of data regarding events in the years gone by. And in bidding the reader good-by, the publishers take this opportunity to express their obligations to the various county officials and their deputies; the editors of the various newspapers, who generously permitted the use of their files; and to the librarians of the public libraries for their uniform courtesies while the work was in preparation.













